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Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-94-160 *18 August 1994*

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Sha'th on Results of Erez Checkpoint Meeting

JN1708102494 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority [PNA] has stated that at a meeting at the Erez checkpoint yesterday, the Palestinian and Israeli sides agreed to discuss the issue of early empowerment, and elections in the West Bank.

In statements he made following the meeting yesterday evening, Dr. Sha'th said that the joint higher liaison committee will meet in Alexandria today to complete the negotiations. Sha'th said he hopes an agreement will be reached on topics under discussion at the Alexandria meeting today.

Dr. Sha'th said that during the Erez checkpoint meetings yesterday, the Palestinian negotiators submitted working papers on the nature of the PNA's work, and on the mechanisms for the elections that will be held on 15 December. In this respect, the Palestinians have asked to be given the records on the inhabitants in Jerusalem and the West Bank.

On Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's threat to suspend the negotiations and freeze the implementation of the agreements with the Palestinian side, Sha'th said that these statements will not lead to fruitful results. Sha'th called on the Israeli side to refrain from linking the incidents to other issues. He called on the Israelis to implement the agreement signed between the two parties. Sha'th added that it is impossible to delay the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement any further.

Joint Communique on Talks Issued

NC1808085494 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 18 Aug (MENA)—The Palestinian and Israeli sides have agreed to transfer education and cultural powers to the Palestinians on 29 August. The two sides agreed, in a joint communique issued early this morning after the meeting of the Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee, to release 249 Palestinian prisoners and to invite the donor states to provide $40 million to fill the deficit in the early empowerment budget. The committee was chaired on the Palestinian side by Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, and on the Israeli side by Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres.

The two sides agreed in the joint communique, which was read by Dr. Sha'th, on the immediate implementation of special arrangements at the secure passage linking Gaza with Jericho. Under these arrangements, individuals barred from entering Israel will be entitled to use the passage in special buses accompanied by Israeli officials. The communique emphasized the Palestinian policemen's right to use the passage while they are in official uniform in accordance with the arrangements agreed upon. They also agreed to ask Canada, Finland, Turkey, Australia, Norway, and two other European states to send, no later than 1 September and with financing from the donor states, 400 people as part of the temporary international presence in the West Bank.

Under the agreement Israel will review the possibility of reopening closed houses and rebuilding destroyed houses belonging to those to be released from prisons or to expelled people who will be repatriated. The two sides agreed to let the Palestinian liaison officers immediately begin their work at the crossing points along the international checkpoints linking Gaza and Jericho with their surroundings. The two sides hoped that the economic conference to be held in Casablanca, Morocco, on 30 October might result in joint investments and projects that could boost the economic activity in the region. They decided to build an industrial zone north of Gaza in collaboration with Israeli industrialists and to set up economic ventures in the field of water desalination. They agreed to encourage regional cooperation among Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinian National Authority.

The Israeli side stressed that it will do its utmost to ease things for the Palestinians entering the self-rule areas via the Rafah checkpoint.

In a joint news conference, officials from the two sides noted that negotiations on the early empowerment of Palestinians in the West Bank will continue, as long as they are finalized by 24 August. Dr. Nabil Sha'th affirmed that the Palestinians and Israelis are determined to implement the Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles and the Cairo Agreement, which provided for the need to preserve peace and security and end violence. Dr. Sha'th added that Sa'ib 'Urayqat, a member of the Palestinian negotiating team, during yesterday's meeting, presented two papers outlining our views on what we think should be done regarding the legislative elections and the need to hold them on 15 December. He emphasized that the elections are the only democratic way to achieve real authorization from the people.

Peres told the news conference this morning that the issue of holding legislative elections in the West Bank and Gaza was discussed, adding that the Palestinians submitted proposals in this regard, which will be thoroughly examined. Peres said that he expects the Palestinian police and security men to arrest people who create panic and kill individuals so that they might stand trial. He pointed out that the issue of prisoners will be discussed further next week, noting that 600 Palestinian prisoners have refused to sign a declaration rejecting violence and, as a result, they remain locked up.

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The Israeli-Palestinian Liaison Committee meets at the request of either party once or twice a month to monitor developments in the negotiations and try to solve problems arising in this regard.

Musa, Peres Discuss Peace Process, Developments

NC1708155594 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Following President Mubarak's 2-hour meeting with Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on today, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said the talks had focused on the various tracks of the peace process, especially the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks, which are buzzing with activity and work. Peres briefed President Mubarak on the current status of the Syrian-Israeli track. Musa said that judging from Peres' briefing, there is progress and improvement in the general climate of the Syrian-Israeli talks. He added that the talks also dealt with the Lebanese track and all activities relating to the peace process.

Regarding progress on the Palestinian track, Musa said there are difficulties and problems on all tracks, be they where progress has been made or where progress has not been made. The problems are many, leading to disagreement on a lot of details. Successive meetings have been held at various levels, including a meeting between Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Peres and 'Arafat will meet shortly. Egypt is keeping in touch with both sides. All this will lead to eliminating or resolving some of these problems.

On Jerusalem, Musa said this issue was discussed in general during the meeting. However, it will be discussed in detail at a later stage.

For his part, Peres said: We have come to Egypt to attend the session of the Israeli-Palestinian talks. We appreciate President Mubarak's and Mr. 'Amr Musa's contribution to the agreements so far reached. They will continue their efforts to reach other agreements. This contribution is vital for pushing forward the peace process. We must add an economic dimension to the political dimension of the agreements we concluded recently.

Peres said the problem in Gaza and the Middle East is about people. We discussed with President Mubarak the plan which we may adopt to improve economic conditions in Gaza, to promote good feelings, and to consolidate the understanding with the Palestinians.

The Israeli foreign minister added: We discussed with President Mubarak and Minister Musa the need to make the Gaza-Jericho agreement a success and nurture a climate of confidence among all sides. We are looking forward to the economic summit meeting which will be held in Morocco. This will be the first meeting on Middle East developments in which all sides will take part. I believe that this meeting should produce initiatives concerning the economic future of the Middle East. We should discuss ways of implementing these ideas during Miniser Musa's visit to Israel this month.

Minister Peres denied having made a statement to the effect that the Palestinian-Israeli peace talks have reached an impasse. I have stressed the economic dimension of the talks, Peres said. The Israeli foreign minister added that he cannot reach a compromise solution on the matter of security. He called on the Palestinian National Authority to take all the necessary measures to provide full security for the population, as promised.

Peres pointed out that Syrian media had indicated no opposition to the recent Israeli-Jordanian agreement. President Mubarak told me that he suggested that a delegation of Jewish leaders from the United States visit President al-Asad in Syria and that President al-Asad responded positively to this proposal, Peres said.

We feel that the Syrians want to continue the negotiations and that we will be able to sort out the situation in the Lebanese south. I believe that this is a positive sign in the Syrian position in this regard, Peres said. He pointed out that so far there has been no progress toward an agreement.

We would like to see the experience we obtained in our negotiations with Egypt serve as basis for negotiations on two levels: On a general level, citizens on both sides should sense a firm resolve to achieve peace. Also, there should be private or secret negotiations through which differences can be resolved away from publicity.

Peres expressed his belief that the economy is the major problem. We have to do everything we can to improve the economic conditions in Gaza, Jericho, and other parts of the West Bank.

Concerning the pressures the Palestinians are facing from the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and al-Jihad groups at home, from Palestinian groups abroad, as well as the Israelis, Peres said: We are trying to facilitate and improve things for the Palestinians, not pressure them. We want to negotiate with them and discuss things together.

Concerning the progress achieved on the Syrian track, Peres said: We sense a positive atmosphere in the negotiations between Syria and Israel. This has become evident in several ways, including the fact that the Syrian media highlighted our negotiations with the Jordanians, published the full text of the Israeli prime minister's statement, and also covered the Palestinian-Israeli talks. This represents a change in Syrian-Israeli relations.

Concerning reports that Washington is putting together a peace agreement between Syria and Israel, Peres said that these reports are untrue.

Mubarak Said Proposing 'Closer' Ties With Israel

TA1808102894 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

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[Excerpts] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak informed Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Alexandria yesterday that he wants to enhance ties with Israel.

With talks on Israeli-Jordanian cooperation taking shape, observers say Cairo wants to transform its 15-year chilly peace with Israel into a closer relationship.

According to officials traveling with Peres, Mubarak said he wanted to send two more Egyptian ministers to Israel before the end of the month. Egypt's oil minister visited here last week and was joined by working-level aides.

Mubarak told Peres during their two-hour meeting yesterday that the Egyptian science minister would arrive in Israel within the next few weeks to discuss academic exchanges between the two countries, thereby engaging one of the sectors most resistant to cooperation with Israel. [passage omitted]

The Egyptian president also said he would encourage Egyptian editors to accompany Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on a two-day visit here before the end of the month, Israeli officials indicated.

Mubarak expressed interest in setting up a four-member development fund involving Egypt, Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians, should the Palestinians agree. Egyptian officials have privately complained that Cairo might be bypassed, as international money pouring into the Middle East may only go to Israel, Jordan, and the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

PLO-Israeli Liaison Committee Meets in Alexandria

Peres on International Temporary Force

NC1708191194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1822 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Aug (MENA)—Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee will meet regularly every two months or once each month if necessary. Peres, who is heading the Israeli side of the committee, said that during the first working session of the committee today agreement was reached on a number of topics, including safe passage between Gaza and Jericho and early empowerment in the West Bank.

Regarding the financing of the Palestinian Authority, Peres said a joint Palestinian-Israeli delegation will visit the donor countries to finance the early empowerment in the West Bank. He added that negotiations on early empowerment will be concluded next week. Responsibility for education will be transferred to the Palestinians before the beginning of the new scholastic year in September.

Peres explained that a joint statement will be issued later today on the talks between the Palestinian and Israeli sides. The statement will call for the adoption of the necessary measures to stop mutual violence between the two sides.

Peres said the Israeli transport minister will leave for the Rafah [as received] crossing point tomorrow to facilitate the movement of the Palestinians at this crossing and to reduce the waiting period from 6 hours to 1 hour and 30 minutes. He noted that tomorrow or the day after tomorrow the Israeli authorities will release 249 Palestinian detainees out of approximately 1,000 detainees. Negotiations on the release of the remaining detainees will continue next week.

Peres explained that tonight the two sides will discuss a number of economic topics.

Peres said they agreed today on the formation of an international temporary force for deployment in the West Bank. It will consist of forces from Australia, Turkey, Norway, Finland, and two other European countries. He added that it was also agreed that Palestinian liaison employees will be stationed at the Gaza and Jericho crossing points. The Israeli authorities will give 35,000 work permits to the Palestinians of Gaza to work in Israel. He noted that the unemployment problem will be solved through joint investment projects in the Gaza Strip, including building a hotel on the northern shore of the Dead Sea.

Peres on Joint Patrols in Gaza

NC1808051894 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0400 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres has stated that Israel and the Palestinian self-rule authority have agreed to conduct joint security patrols in Gaza, which is fraught with disturbances, and the surrounding area. Peres added that the joint measures will also apply to the crossing points in Gaza and Jericho.

Speaking after the Liaison Committee's one-day meeting in Alexandria, Peres pointed out that 250 Palestinian activists detained in Israeli prisons will be released as a new goodwill gesture toward the Palestinians.

Earlier Dr. Nabil Sha'th stated that the Palestinian self-rule authority had warned the fundamentalist Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] against repeating its irresponsible acts of violence. Such acts left one Israeli dead and six others wounded in Gaza this week. Dr. Sha'th added that he expects Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to meet Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint on Monday. He hoped that an agreement to expand the Gaza-Jericho experiment to include other West Bank areas, particularly in the fields of education, health, tourism, finance, and social affairs, would be reached during the coming round of self-rule talks to be held next week.

Musa Hints at Progress in Talks

NC1708191694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1846 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Alexandria, 17 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stressed that progress has been

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made or is on the verge of being made on the issues discussed at the meetings of the Palestinian-Israeli Liaison Committee.

Speaking to correspondents at the end of the committee meetings, Musa said that Dr. Nabil Sha'th, minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian National Authority, contacted Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat today but said he has no details about what went on in this contact.

In reply to a question about the Israeli offer to set up joint Palestinian-Israeli projects to provide jobs for Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Musa said that the Palestinian side must either accept or reject this Israeli offer; it is the one to decide on this.

Israeli-Jordanian Talks Focus on Bilateral Issues

Tourism Ministers Meet

TA1708130594 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] At the Dead Sea, talks resumed this morning on bilateral issues facing Israel and Jordan. The focus at first was on tourism issues. Tzvi Pantanowitz sums up:

[Begin recording] [Pantanowitz] A good atmosphere prevailed at this morning's talks as is evident from the statements that emerged from the participants in the discussion. It was the first time that a Jordanian cabinet minister was in Israel. He had been invited here by Israel's Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am, who going into the talks, told our reporter Moti Amir what they were focusing on:

[Bar'am] This meeting is a very important one, because it is the first official meeting between two ministers in Israel. We are trying to elaborate some subjects, especially about joint promotion and activities between our two countries in order to bring more tourists for the third countries according to the agreement.

[Pantanowitz] Bar'am said later that at the end of the month, he would go to Jordan at the head of an Israeli delegation for further talks on matters common to the two countries' tourism industries. The Jordanian minister, Dr. Muhammad al-'Adwan, thanked Bar'am for the invitation he had received to talk about tourism. Tourism, he said, was one of the main sectors that would be affected by the peace process.

[Al-'Adwan] We have had a positive, constructive, and productive meeting. We went over many issues, over possible cooperation, including future joint marketing, establishment of a permanent joint committee between Israel and Jordan dealing with tourism, unifying standards in the tourism profession and many other issues.

[Pantanowitz] Al-'Adwan would not be drawn on when there would be free movement of Israelis and Jordanians across their common border, indicating that this would have to be left to the final stage after a peace treaty. This view was echoed by the head of the Jordanian team to the bilateral negotiations, Fayiz al-Tarawinah.

[Al-Tarawinah] Hopefully, immediately after we sign the peace treaty.

[Amir] But not before that?

[Al-Tarawinah] I hope that if we make progress on the modalities, on all the crucial issues then things will move.

[Amir] It seems to be that two issues are difficult. The water and the borders. Do you think that today or up until the end of this week, you will finish these two issues?

[Al-Tarawinah] We wanted to finish that two and a half years ago but basically we still made some progress in forming the modalities or the means to negotiate this very seriously, but we are trying to put ourselves on the right track on that, but it means a lot of details. [end recording]

[Also reporting on the Dead Sea talks today, Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1200 GMT on 17 August adds that "Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am and his Jordanian counterpart, Muhammad al-'Adwan, decided to set up a joint committee which will consolidate joint tourism package deals." "The ministers and directors general of the Israeli and Jordanian Tourism Ministries conferred with about 70 Israeli travel agents, and presented to them video films and maps on Jordan's tourism sites."]

Jordan's al-'Adwan Remarks

JN1708120894 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli peace negotiators have opened another day of talks at Israel's shore of the Dead Sea. Today's talks were marked by a meeting between Minister of Tourism Muhammad al-'Adwan and his Israeli counterpart, 'Uzi Bar'am, at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. The ministers discussed tourism in peacetime and potential cooperation between the two countries. Radio Jordan's Lina Abu-al-Sha'r is at the site of the meeting, and she has just filed the following report:

[Begin recording] [Abu-al-Sha'r] Talks here at the Moriah Plaza Hotel were marked today by a meeting between the minister of tourism, Muhammad al-'Adwan, and his Israeli counterpart, 'Uzi Bar'am. Discussions dealt with means to promote joint ventures aimed bringing more tourists from third countries. Dr. al-'Adwan spoke to reporters following the meeting.

[Al-'Adwan] I came on the invitation of my colleague, Mr. 'Uzi Bar'am, to meet here in the context of the bilateral negotiations. We discussed a variety of issues that our two committees had gone over. And we discussed the means of cooperation in the future. We reviewed the progress on all the other issues in the

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bilateral negotiations. And we discussed the means of cooperation that will open, hopefully, when we conclude peace treaty in the future.

[Abu-al-Sha'r] The minister explained that the subcommittee on tourism was to present Israeli travel agents today with Jordan's touristic attractions for people from third countries. He added that a similar Israeli offer would be submitted for Jordanian travel agents in the near future. Dr. al-'Adwan pointed out to a plan for Petra, the Dead Sea, and al-'Aqabah, saying there were at least 20 investment projects for the three areas, including rest houses, health centers, and other vital services. He said Jordan is now implementing infrastructure projects in areas involving foreign capital. The minister predicted a prosperous tourism industry, and said:

[Al-'Adwan] You know tourism is a peace industry, flourishes always within a peaceful environment that is based on stability and security. And we believe that all the parties in the region—Israel, Jordan, and all the countries will benefit greatly from peace once it is achieved.

[Abu-al-Sha'r] On his part, the Israeli minister of tourism said tourists from third countries would benefit from the joint ventures and will start coming to both Jordan and Israel in a few weeks. Mr. Bar'am said Jordanians and Israelis would exchange tourist visits at a later stage when a comprehensive peace settlement in the Middle East is achieved. He mentioned that a conference would be held in Lisbon in November to promote programs for European tourists to visit Jordan, Egypt, and Israel. The Israeli minister stressed the great potentials of tourism both countries have, saying revenues of tourism in Israel amount to $2.5 billion a year. This is Lina Abu-al-Sha'r reporting from the Moriah Plaza Hotel at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. [end recording]

Ministers Discuss Tourism Memo

JN1708201694 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am has said Jordan and Israel are currently discussing a bilateral tourism memorandum through the tourism subcommittee which is concerned with promoting joint projects, particularly in the United States which is a good market for both Jordanian and Israeli tourism. In the meantime, we are not discussing the issue of allowing Jordanian and Israeli tourists to visit Israel and Jordan, he added.

During a meeting with the Jordanian media today following his meeting with [Jordanian] Tourism Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Affash al-'Adwan, the Israeli minister said this situation is expected to be settled before October through the U.S. tourist company (Esta) by convincing it to send many tourist groups to visit Jordan and Israel, and perhaps Egypt.

Bar'am said he hoped the first such group would arrive at the end of this month. He added that the two sides are discussing joint tourist projects, noting that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement provides for trilateral cooperation in tourism among Jordan, Israel, and the Palestinians in order to develop the northern Dead Sea areas. This issue, however, was not discussed in detail during these meetings, he added.

Further on 'Joint Tourism Strategy'

JN1808103594 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 Aug 94 pp 1, 7

[Report from Nirmin Murad at Moriah Plaza Dead Sea Hotel]

[Excerpts] Bilateral negotiations between Israel and Jordan will end today having registered progress in most committees but falling short of any ground-breaking agreements.

However, an agreement was reached Wednesday [17 August] under which Israel and Jordan will soon sell joint organised tours to holidaymakers taking in both countries.

Jordanian Tourism Minister Muhammad al-Adwan and his Israeli counterpart 'Uzi Bar'am met at this hotel on the Israeli shore of the Dea Sea to draw up a joint tourism strategy.

Jordanian experts accompanying Dr. al-Adwan proposed promoting tours combining visits to Israeli and Jordanian sites at a meeting with Israeli tour operators.

The tours would be sold worldwide, especially in the United States.

The two ministers agreed to set up a joint tourism commission to work out detailed arrangements.

It was the first time a Jordanian minister ventured inside Israel since the two countries signed the Washington Declaration last month, ending a 46-year state of belligerency.

The countries hope joint packaging will increase overall tourism. Israel currently attracts almost two million visitors annually, about four times more then Jordan.

Dr. al-Adwan met with Israeli and Jordanian travel agents after his meeting with Bar'am.

"This region has suffered far too long," he said. "we need to make our people in the area feel directly the reality of peace. Tourism is one of the main sectors that will be affected."

Dr. al-Adwan noted Israeli and Jordanian citizens not holding a third country passport will not be able to cross the border before the signing of a "lasting, honourable peace agreement." [passage omitted]

As the first visit to Israel by a cabinet minister, Dr. al-Adwan's presence at the Moriah Hotel Wednesday drew the limelight away from the bilaterals, at least for the Israeli press.

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Although Jordanian delegation sources stressed that Dr. al-Adwan's visit comes as part of the bilateral negotiations on tourism and is "not an official visit to Israel by a cabinet minister," the symbolism in this gesture was not lost on the Israeli side.

Dr. al-Adwan, who did not conduct any negotiations with his Israeli counterpart, arrived at the hotel to bolster a meeting between Jordanian and Israeli tour operators in which Jordan gave a slide presentation of its touristic attractions.

Dr. al-Adwan, in a short address to the meeting of tour operators, said that he hoped the Kingdom and Israel would reach agreement on the fundamental elements of their negotiations so that cooperation in tourism can bring prosperity to both countries.

On another level, Jordanian negotiations source denied that the Kingdom and Israel had agreed on a three point security draft, which among other things, would have committed the Kingdom to staying out of any military coalition that threatened the security of Israel.

"This idea is not even on the table, we rejected it outright," the source told the Jordan Times. [passage omitted]

No Agreement Said on Water, Borders

JN1708181594 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1600 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Jordanian and Israeli negotiators have ended another day of talks at Israel's shore of the Dead Sea. Spokesman for Jordan's delegation, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, said the Jordanian team yesterday outlined to the Israelis Jordan's official stand on boundaries and Jordanian territories occupied by Israel. He said the Israeli team this morning gave a detailed briefing of its position on those two issues.

Our reporter, Mrs. Lina Abu-al-Sha'r, attended the press conference Dr. al-Mu'ashshir held this afternoon, and she filed this report from the site of the Jordan-Israel negotiations:

[Begin Abu-al-Sha'r recording] Various Jordanian and Israeli subcommittees have ended another day of bilateral talks without any progress mentioned. Spokesman of the Jordanian delegation, Dr. Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, said apart from the morning meeting of both ministers of tourism, nothing was achieved to highlight the progress of today's talks. However, he added that no agreement on tourism would be signed before a peace treaty is reached. He said the Israeli side gave their response today to the Jordanian proposals on border which were submitted yesterday, but he provided no details.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said there is still a difference on the civil aviation issue; namely, on altitude. He also said no agreement was reached on water, adding that some members of the committee on water today attended meetings of the border committee.

The spokesman told reporters he wanted to make clear that the trade memorandum signed yesterday excluded Palestinian self-rule areas. Those areas, he said, would be dealt with through Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation. He added that the figure of $30 million worth of Jordanian commodities until the end of this year is far modest from early proposals of an annual trade volume of $300 million.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir concluded that he could not predict whether any other agreement would be reached in this current round which ends tomorrow.

Earlier in the afternoon, head of the Israeli delegation Elyaqim Rubinstein told reporters that both sides are determined to demonstrate a willingness in peace in terms of energy, economy, communications, and tourism.

Dr. Rubinstein said Jordanian and Israeli delegates have not reached agreement yet on the thorny issues of water and border, and said that both parties should be satisfied with any results that might be reached. He added that the committee on border demarcation will carry on its deliberations when bilateral talks resume on the Jordanian side of the Dead Sea next October.

On water, he explained that both sides recognize the scarce resources they have, and added that experts were working on the priority of examining means to contain the waste of these resources before looking into new ones. He refused to give specifics on the ongoing talks but expressed optimism that both countries are determined to make this peace work. This is Lina Abu-al-Sha'r reporting for Radio Jordan from the Moriah Plaza Hotel at the Israeli side of the Dead Sea. [end recording]

Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Said Pushed to 'Brink of Civil War'

NC1708145194 Paris AFP in English 1341 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Damascus, Aug 17 (AFP)—The PLO crackdown on Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] militants has pushed the Palestinians to the brink of civil war, hardline Palestinian groups warned here Wednesday [17 August].

"The alliance of Palestinian forces (which includes Hamas) believes that any aggression against one of its factions targets all the other parties," a joint statement from the coalition said.

It blamed PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat for ordering Monday's sweep in the Gaza Strip in which dozens of militants from the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) were arrested by Palestinian police and then questioned for hours.

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" 'Arafat and his police (bear) responsibility for this policy, which leaves our people on the edge of civil war," the statement added.

The alliance was determined "to continue its struggle to ensure the failure of the Israeli-Palestinian accords and to intensify resistance to the Zionist occupation."

Palestinian police said they arrested 18 militants, while Hamas said between 20 and 30 were detained. The crackdown was aimed at ending anti-Israeli attacks which left one Israeli dead and 10 wounded on Sunday and Monday.

Some of the militants were still behind bars Wednesday in Gaza's central prison, which was formerly under the control of the Israeli army.

Apart from Hamas, the alliance groups the Islamic Jihad in Palestine, and the Damascus-based Democratic and Popular Fronts for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP and PFLP).

PLO Says Crackdown To Continue

NC1708152994 Paris AFP in English 1457 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Gaza City, Gaza Strip, Aug 17 (AFP)—A senior Palestinian intelligence officer warned militants that a crackdown to maintain security in the autonomous areas would continue even if it cost dozens of lives, an opposition source said Wednesday [17 August].

Palestinian police rounded up dozens of suspected militants from the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas after the group claimed responsibility for attacks in the Gaza Strip Sunday which left one Israeli civilian dead and seven wounded.

Intelligence chief Colonel Tawfiq Jabr told detained Hamas supporters Tuesday that "security must be maintained at all costs," one of those questioned by police said.

"He warned us: 'There will be no attacks, no possession of arms and no disturbance of the peace, even if tens of people are killed in the process,'" said Ahmad al-Kurd, a Hamas supporter.

Jabr was not available for comment.

Israeli security officials accused the Palestinian Authority of inefficiency in the search for Hamas militants.

"The Palestinian security services are not hunting the perpetrators of the Hamas attack efficiently," said a source identified as a senior security official on Israeli radio.

"They have not managed to arrest a single one of them so far, although they know their identities."

But a senior Palestinian police official, Ghazi al-Jabali, said security forces were fulfilling their duty.

"We only arrest suspects," said al-Jabali, head of civilian police in the autonomous areas of Gaza and Jericho.

"We are implementing the peace agreement and whoever tries to ruin it will be hunted down."

Al-Jabali said an unspecified number of suspects remained in prison. By late Tuesday, four out of 18 suspects were still being held.

Meanwhile, Israeli forces arrested a 21-year-old Palestinian, Khalid al-Sulaybi, in Israel proper. They sent him to Beersheba jail on suspicion of having links with Hamas and of anti-Israeli activities, a Hamas source told AFP.

In Damascus, hardline Palestinian groups warned that the PLO crackdown on Hamas militants had pushed the Palestinians to the brink of civil war.

"The alliance of Palestinian forces (which includes Hamas) believes that any aggression against one of its factions targets all the other parties," a joint statement from the coalition said.

" 'Arafat and his police (bear) responsibility for this policy, which leaves our people on the edge of civil war," the statement added.

Hamas Spokesman on Continuation of Intifadah

NC1808060794 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The PLO has threatened a crackdown on Palestinian Muslims who attack Zionists or carry arms. Recently, PLO police also attempted to arrest combatant Muslim Palestinians, namely members of Hamas. Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has rejected PLO threats and has stressed that the intifadah will continue. He has also called on the PLO to release Hamas prisoners as soon as possible.

Our [unidentified] correspondent in Beirut interviewed Ghawshah on these issues. Commenting on Hamas' strategy in continuing attacks on the Zionists, he told our correspondent:

[Begin recording] [Ghawshah, in Arabic with superimposed translation into Persian] Hamas' strategy consists of operations against the Zionist regime and we will continue our operations because they stem from Islam and from the meaning of the freedom of Palestine.

[Correspondent] Ghawshah also said: Any reaction by the self-rule government in preventing the continuation of the operations or in gathering the arms from the Palestinian nation, which is defending itself from the Zionists, will force the Palestinian nation and the self-rule government into a dangerous circle.

Asked about Hamas' stance on the self-rule government's insistence on gathering arms, Ghawshah said: If

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the self-rule government's intention in gathering up arms from the Hamas movement is to stop the movement's operations against the Zionists, this government too will become a shield for the Zionist regime, much like the hireling militia of Antoine Lahd, which is in full coordination and cooperating with the Zionist regime in south Lebanon. So the Palestinian nation will not sit back. It will rise to help the combatant Muslim forces confront the occupying regime and the pro-'Arafat forces.

Reporting for the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran from Beirut. [end recording]

Gaza Police Chief, Hamas Official View Arrests

JN1708182794 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Report by Hasan Abu-Zayid]

[Text] Palestinian police yesterday rounded up further activists of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, in Dayr al-Balah. The arrests included 'Atiyah Abu-'Amrah, Sabri Abu-'Amrah, and Yahya 'Uwayd. Meanwhile, a number of Hamas activists who were apprehended recently, have been released by the Palestinian police authorities.

Brigadier General Ghazi Jabali, the Gaza Police chief, said in reaction:

[Begin recording] [Jabali] We are fully committed to the implementation of the agreement. When a violation takes place, it is handled in accordance with the law. Period.

[Abu-Zayid] In the past two days...

[Jabali, interrupting] In Israel they are called arrests. In our homeland we call it prosecuting crime and tracking down culprits.

[Abu-Zayid] How many persons have been summoned for questioning by Palestinian police?

[Jabali] The competent authorities are taking action against whoever is related to criminal action violating the agreement and international pledges. Whoever is proved to be involved will stand trial in line with the rules in force and the traditions of democracy in which we take pride.

[Abu-Zayid] The Islamic movements contend that a great many of their number have been questioned.

[Jabali] I have not heard the Islamic movements make such allegation. And if they did make such an allegation, that would be baseless. Those arrested or questioned were not many. What happened was investigating whoever committed any offense that ran counter to the promises of the Palestine National Authority [PNA] regionally or internationally.

[Abu-Zayid] How do you propose to prevent a repeat of last week's developments in Kissufim?

[Jabali] That is impossible. The Israeli half-million-strong military with all the tanks and aircraft at its disposal is not capable of doing this. As for us, we will be faithful to our commitments and try our best. We will do our best. The United States with a military made up of 3.1 million servicemen and a police force made up of three to four million members could not prevent the Los Angeles incidents. Is that right?

[Abu-Zayid] Exactly.

[Jabali] Do not ask us to do things beyond our capacity. Our forces are only 7,000-strong. Breaches here and there are inevitable. However, we are determined to deliver on our commitments and promises.

[Abu-Zayid] Palestinian police were said to be out to apprehend armed members of 'Izzidin al-Qassam battalions. Did that happen?

[Jabali] If there were a decision to this effect, it would have been implemented. But there is no such decision. Whatever is rumored on that score is groundless. We pursue offenders within the territory controlled by the PNA. Period. There is no intention to arrest anyone. Had there been one, it would have been enforced. Some people are blowing the issue out of all proportion. [end recording]

Shaykh Muhsin Abu-'Aytah, a key Hamas activist in the Gaza Strip:

[Begin recording] [Abu-'Aytah] It is strange that the PNA is using this language with Islamists. We know that prison in any state is a place to house thieves and criminals, not worthy citizens who have devoted their careers to their people. It is objectionable to storm homes to make arrests during the night while women and children are asleep. Our people will not stand for arrests without even arrest warrants. It is apparent that all those who were arrested had nothing to do with the reasons underlying the arrests.

[Abu-Zayid] Have there been arrests today and yesterday?

[Abu-'Aytah] I think the campaign is ongoing. Yesterday two were arrested, questioned, and subsequently released in Dayr al-Balah. A resident of Dayr al-Balah is still in detention. Another four are still held in the Gaza Central Prison.

[Abu-Zayid] Did you get in touch with the PNA over these arrests?

[Abu-'Aytah] I was one of the detainees. The only contact I had was through the intelligence officer who interrogated me.

[Abu-Zayid] What about the other detainees?

[Abu-'Aytah] These have been freed. As I have said, five remain in custody.

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[Abu-Zayid] How are the Islamists in the Gaza Strip reacting to these arrests?

[Abu-'Aytah] In my opinion, the action is not targeting the Islamic movement. The majority of the detainees were freed only recently and they belonged to social establishments. For instance, the Reform Society on whose board I sit has had three members arrested and they were not even remotely connected to all that has been happening. I have learned that there have been *unplanned reactions in Dayr al-Balah.* People were out on the streets demonstrating and milling about in front of the police headquarters in Dayr al-Balah. The question does not concern just the Islamic movement. I have heard rumblings from within the PNA and Fatah and other opposition circles and ordinary Palestinians. This hardly advances the PNA interests. [end recording]

Security Services Head, Hamas Leaders Meet

TA1708135194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Colonel Tawfiq Jabir who is responsible for the southern Gaza Strip on behalf of the Palestinian security services last night met with several Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders, relaying to them the demand by Amin al-Hindi, the security services' head, to stop the terrorist acts in the Strip and to turn the activists of 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam, Hamas' military arm, over to the Palestinian police. Jabir also gave the Hamas leaders a list of this military arm's activists who are wanted by the Palestinian Shin Bet, especially Kamal Kahil. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Tawfiq Jabir told the Hamas leaders that the organization's terrorist activity harms the peace process and the Palestinian people's interests since Israel takes advantage of this activity to prevent the transfer of powers in the West Bank and the release of Palestinian detainees.

Our correspondent adds that the Palestinian police released most of the Hamas activists it had detained, and Palestinian security sources say that the efforts to capture the perpetrators of the terrorist actions now focus on the intelligence level.

A senior security source said that the PLO's security services have so far failed to take effective steps against Hamas in the Gaza Strip. The source told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that up until now, the Palestinian security forces have not captured even one fugitive from the military wing of Hamas which was involved in attacks on Israelis, despite the fact that the identity of the perpetrators is known to the PLO.

Hamas Leader Denies Interrogation by Police

JN1708171394 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0630 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Mahmud al-Zahhar, one of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leaders in Gaza, has denied that he has been interrogated. Al-Zahhar said he met with Palestinian officials to discuss issues related to daily life in Gaza. Al-Zahhar has warned against Israeli media attempts to escalate the situation.

Hamas Activist Reported Detained by Israel

TA1708174294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip claim that Israel's security forces detained a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist, Khalid Salibi, on the Kissufim road yesterday on suspicion that he was recently involved in terrorist acts against Israelis in the region. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that Salibi was one of the Hamas deportees to Lebanon at the time, and was recently released from detention in Israel. The Palestinian sources say that they submitted a formal protest to Israel about his detention. In reaction, official Army sources said that the matter is under investigation.

[In a report on Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1505 GMT on 17 August Yoni Ben-Menahem notes that "senior security elements in Israel take a grave view of what is happening in the Gaza Strip. Israel relayed intelligence information to the Palestinian Authority about the terrorists who stand behind the terror acts in the Strip. The Palestinians, too, have all the names, all details about the wanted Hamas activists, but the detentions still did not include them. The detentions which rather included the Hamas political leadership did not yield any results naturally, and there is no guarantee that the terrorist acts will not continue in the future."]

Gaza Hamas Activist Released, 4 Others Detained

TA1808101994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] 'Abdallah Abu-Tilah, a Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist in the Dayr al-Balah region, was released from detention yesterday. Four other Hamas activists are still being detained. Shaykh Abu-'Aytah, one of the Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip, told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that even people in the Palestinian Authority and Fatah extremely resent the detention spree. He warned of growing pressure on Hamas to react, but noted that the movement is also trying to preserve the interests of the local population.

'Arafat Vows To Fight 'Terrorist' Attacks

TA1808121994 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat says he will not fight Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], but will act to the best of his ability to prevent them carrying out terrorist attacks. 'Arafat told a delegation of Meretz Knesset members [MK's] that he condemns all terrorist attacks and is working vigorously to prevent them. He ordered the arrests of dozens of Hamas members, some

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are still being interrogated. At the same time 'Arafat accused Israeli extremists of trying to alter existing agreements with the PLO.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 18 August, reporting on the same meeting, adds: "'Arafat also complained that Israel is preventing entrance to senior PLO leaders, who have helped him pass decisions in PLO institutions and who can help him amend other decisions."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1000 GMT on 18 August includes a report by Arab affairs correspondent Oren Kohen, in which he reports: "During a meeting with kindergarten children prior to the meeting with the Meretz MK's, 'Arafat divulged that Israel has offered to release all the security prisoners in exchange for a pardon by the Palestinian Authority to Palestinian collaborators. 'Arafat told the children he is examining the issue and is maintaining contacts with all the Palestinian factions in order to reach the right decision in the near future."]

Fatah Dissidents Warn of 'Arafat Self-Rule Plans

JN1708170994 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The Palestine National Liberation Movement, Fatah-the Uprising, stressed the right of the people of Palestine and their forces to resist the Zionist occupation by all available means.

A statement by the movement's official spokesman distributed in Damascus today, called on the masses of the Palestinian people and all struggling forces to be alert to what Yasir 'Arafat's self-rule administration is planning.

The statement highly valued the role of the people of Palestine and their brave intifadah and the struggling forces in confronting and resisting the occupation and refusing to join the Palestinian self-rule administration.

Quray' Said Critical of Agreement With Jordan

TA1708185594 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] The economic agreement signed between Israel and Jordan is a violation of the agreement between Israel and the PLO. This was stated today by Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], the PLO official in charge of economy. According to Abu-'Ala', Israel has no right to sign economic agreements with other Arab parties which concern the territories. Our correspondent in the territories Yoram Kohen reports that Abu-'Ala' has already appealed to the Jordanian authorities, requesting a discussion of this issue. Our correspondent adds that according to the agreement signed yesterday, Jordan can export to the West Bank, except for Jericho, goods worth $30 million until the end of this year.

Closed Newspaper Editor Denies Link to Hamas

JN1708191394 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1430 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Report by Sa'id Mu'addi]

[Text] Under the slogan "Yes to Press Freedom" and "Yes to Freedom of Speech and Opinion" a number of journalists staged a sit-in by the AL-BAYAN offices to protest the Israeli closure order served on the Arabic-language weekly. A Jerusalem District Officer's letter to the paper's editor attorney 'Abd-al-Hadi Bitar, cited its connection to Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement].

[Begin recording] [Bitar] We are deeply upset by the closure decision, all the more so given that the Israeli authorities had criticized the Palestinian authorities over the latter's banning of the distribution of AL-NAHAR in Gaza and Jericho. Now the Israelis are doing the same thing to AL-BAYAN. Suppression of the press in the occupied territory is totally objectionable. Press freedom throughout the world is sacrosanct and should be immune to any transgression.

[Mu'addi] But the paper was ordered closed on account of its connection to Hamas.

[Bitar] That is the pretext advanced by the Israeli authorities. This is absolutely groundless. The real reason behind the closure is AL-BAYAN's opposition to the political process. We want true peace under which our people regain their full rights.

[Mu'addi] Will you seek a court order to reverse the closure?

[Bitar] Of course we will. We will resort to the Supreme Court of Justice soon. We have already taken steps in that direction. [end recording]

Journalists Protest Closure of AL-BAYAN

TA1708131494 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Approximately 30 Arab journalists demonstrated opposite the offices of the weekly AL-BAYAN in East Jerusalem to protest the closure order issued against the newspaper at the end of the week by the Interior Ministry. The paper's distributor, 'Abd-al-Hadi Bitar, told our correspondent Ya'el Ayalon that the Interior Ministry's allegations about a connection between the newspaper and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] were totally unfounded and the only reason behind the weekly's closure was its opposition to the political process. Bitar claimed that the newspaper's editors received no warning. He also stated that all the material published had been submitted to the censor.

Cairo-Amman Bank Opens Branch in Gaza

TA1808121694 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Aug 94 p 10

[Excerpt] Gaza—A Cairo-Amman Bank branch has opened in Gaza after the bank's board of directors

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obtained the blessing and approval of the Palestinian self-rule authority. This branch will serve to extend the activity of the bank's branches in various West Bank towns, where they began offering banking services several years ago. [passage omitted]

Israelis' Actions Seen as Instigating Resistance

MM1808084494 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 16 Aug 94 p 11

[Editorial: "Hamas Operations in the West Bank and Gaza"]

[Text] That Israeli Army troops be subjected to the Islamic resistance's attacks in the Gaza Strip, is only to be expected. Because the presence of these troops continues to provoke Palestinian national feelings, even though this presence is governed by agreements signed in Oslo and Cairo.

We are saying this on the occasion of the fedayeen operation carried out by a Hamas group near the Ghawsh Qatif [as transliterated] settlement the evening before last, which resulted in one Israeli soldier being killed and three others wounded. This operation led to delaying the opening of the security passageway between Gaza and Jericho. It also prompted the Palestinian police to launch a campaign of arrests, including the arrest of 10 Hamas activists.

Israeli troops are supposed to conduct patrols to protect about 18 Jewish settlements in the Gaza Strip which Israel refused to evacuate and insisted on retaining despite the Palestinian negotiator's earnest request not to, until these settlements became like detention centers for their inhabitants and a thorn in the side of the Palestinians, who launched their intifadah to get rid of any Israeli presence—civilian or military—on their territory.

True, the Rabin government does not want to set a precedent by removing settlements in the Gaza Strip—a precedent that could lead to similar developments in the West Bank. But what is even more true is that these settlements, which are in one of the most densely populated areas in the world, are of no political, economic, or even military value. Most of the buildings are prefab homes, and the Jewish families living there are in a permanent state of fear and do not make a move without the protection of military patrols.

In short, the presence of these settlements is designed for bargaining and maneuvering to humiliate the Palestinian negotiator and to remind the people in the occupied territories that the Israelis are still in their midst, and with military force, whether they like it or not.

What is certain is that Israel will exploit this fedayeen operation and any other similar operations in the future to put pressure on the Palestinian National Authority, cast doubt on its effectiveness, and delay any early transfer of powers and jobs in the other parts of the occupied West Bank. This is why statements have been made by some of its [Palestinian Authority] ministers, especially Furayh Abu-Middayn, minister of justice, and Ilyas Frayj, minister of tourism, condemning the operations and urging that the Israelis not be attacked.

Although we do not believe in the conspiracy theory in explaining some of the current events, we do not rule out an Israeli role in trying to thwart the Palestinian self-rule experiment and shake world and local confidence in the Palestinian authority led by Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. It is clear that there is extreme slowness in expanding the self-rule areas, implementing the clauses of the Cairo accord, and reaching agreements on tax, customs, and other similar means of collecting money to make the Palestinian authority's projects a success and to provide it with the necessary finances to implement its projects and impose its prestige on its citizens.

The striking thing is that Israeli authorities are acting as though they are instigating the Islamic resistance to carry out fedayeen operations against them. The killing in the West Bank four days ago of two fugitives belonging to Hamas' military wing provokes this movement and prompts it to retaliate and to take revenge for its martyrs, and it is capable of that.

So if the Palestinian police is required to maintain security and prevent any fedayeen attacks in the self-rule areas, the special Israeli forces are required to help it in this connection directly or indirectly, namely by refraining from embarking on any practices that are bound to provoke the opposition and prompt those opposed to the peace process to kill Israelis.

The Rabin government knows full well that since the al-Ibrahimi Mosque massacre in Hebron, the Islamic resistance now avenges—swiftly—the killing of any Palestinian citizen. This was clear in the al-Hulah [as transliterated] and Hadera suicide operations. And this policy has partially succeeded in checking the settlers and stopping their savage raids on peaceful villages in the West Bank.

Fedayeen operations remain justifiable in many people's view as long as the causes are still there. The only thing capable of stopping them is the removal of the settlements and the Israeli forces' withdrawal from the West Bank and the Strip.

Editorial: Palestinians' Future 'in the Balance'

TA1708185094 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Aug 94 p 13

[Editorial: "National Unity"]

[Text] The current situation, in all its challenges and perils, requires all to rally around the framework of national unity and exercise the utmost restraint, clear-sightedness, and wisdom. This will overcome the events and crises, emerging from them rationally and in a way

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that serves the interest of the Palestinian people's sons, their future, and presence on their land.

What the Palestinians are most keen about is avoiding infighting. This principle is recognized and acknowledged by the various Palestinian forces, because fighting among the sons of one people will not be in the interest of any group. On the contrary, infighting will turn back the Palestinian cause and alter the world's positive view of the Palestinians as mature and aware people who can choose their way and move seriously and firmly toward their goals.

Undoubtedly, the Palestinians' further attainment of their rights is a strategic objective that requires complete agreement regardless of the numerous, or sometimes conflicting, political tendencies. Hence, we must place Palestinian affiliation above everything else and act to achieve the goals for which everyone is striving while avoiding any possibility of contact or friction between the sons of one homeland and destiny.

The immense challenges facing the Palestinian people cannot be surmounted except through solidarity and cohesion between these people's sons and in a spirit of responsibility, evaluation of the consequences, and accurate calculation of each step in any direction.

It is certain that all the parties are able to pass this stage and overcome the current difficulties, because the issue does not concern a certain group or groups. The Palestinian people's future is in the balance. Everyone must take this fact into account during the unforeseen circumstances, such as those taking place these days, which everyone hopes will also be overcome and redressed as has happened more than once in the not too distant past.

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Algeria

Islamic Group Gives 'Final Warning' to Journalists

NC1708180194 Paris AFP in English 1604 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Algiers, Aug 17 (AFP)—The Islamic Salvation Army (AIS) Wednesday gave a "final warning" to journalists in Algeria, telling them to stop supporting the military-backed government and hinting they could be targeted with violence.

The warning was in the most recent issue of the group's clandestine publication, transmitted to AFP.

It said "no excuse will be valid after this warning."

Hinting that reporters might become regular targets for violence, the group added, "Either you repent or you will have only yourselves to blame."

The group is the armed wing of the banned Islamic Salvation Front. It complained that the media in Algeria depict Moslem fundamentalists in Algeria as "outlaws."

Fifteen journalists have been killed since May 1993 in Algeria in attacks blamed on Moslem extremist groups.

Death Toll Climbs to 50 in Earthquake

LD1808082494 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] A powerful earthquake struck Mascara province at dawn this morning; its force it is not known, however.

A short while ago we contacted the secretary general of the province of Mascara who told us that the region of (Sahaguelia), in the municipality of Bou Hani, and the municipality of El Hassine, in the district of Bou Hanifia, were the most hit: 50 people have been killed and 189 injured according to initial report. He added that rescue operations were still under way at these two regions. He pointed out that quake, given its strength, might also hit other areas.

Egypt

Attacks on Diplomats in Sudan Reported

NC1708202694 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2000 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Aug (MENA)—Fathi 'Abdallah, the administrative attache at the Egyptian consulate in Khartoum, was attacked by unidentified men tonight. This is the seventh attack on Egyptians in Sudan in three days.

A number of persons waited for the Egyptian diplomat and lashed him with whips while he was on his way to his office at the embassy this afternoon.

The incident is part of a series of attacks on Egyptian diplomats in Sudan in the past few days, the latest of which was when an unidentified vehicle crashed into the car of 'Ala' 'Abd-al-Sadiq, Egypt's consul general in Sudan. The car was smashed, but he escaped injury.

Ramadan al-Sharif, the charge d'affaires at the Egyptian Embassy in Khartoum, is holding urgent contacts with the Sudanese Foreign Ministry to lodge a new Egyptian protest against these incidents.

Property Seizures Protested

NC1708124594 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 17 Aug (MENA)—Egyptian Charge d'Affaires in Khartoum Ramadan al-Sharif handed the Sudanese Foreign Ministry two memoranda protesting Sudanese authorities' actions against the Egyptian community in Khartoum.

In a statement to MENA, al-Sharif said the two memoranda deal with the Sudanese security authorities' seizure of the Egyptian community school in Khartoum, the four dwellings of the school's teachers, and the administrative headquarters of the former Egyptian educational mission in Khartoum.

Meanwhile, al-Sharif denied a report disseminated by Sudanese radio today alleging that the Sudanese Foreign Ministry summoned the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum yesterday and informed him that it viewed with gravity Egypt's attacks on Sudan and Egyptian security authorities' harassment of the Sudanese diplomatic mission in Cairo. Al-Sharif said Egyptian Ambassador in Khartoum Hasan Jad-al-Haq is currently on leave in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Population Minister Discusses ICPD

NC1208195094 Cairo AL-MUSAWWAR in Arabic 12 Aug 94 pp 34-37, 80, 81

[Interview with Dr. Mahir Mahran, Egyptian population and family affairs minister and chairman of the UN ICPD Preparatory Committee, by AL-MUSAWWAR'S editorial staff, in Cairo; date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-MUSAWWAR] Some 18,000 people are coming to Egypt to attend the conference, including three prime ministers, a former U.S. President, the current U.S. vice president, 5,000 government delegates, and 10,000 nongovermental delegates. How will Egypt manage to host such a huge number of guests? What security and organizational measures have been taken?

[Mahran] I would like first to point out that the choice of Egypt as the country for the UN International Conference on Population and Development [ICPD] was made by the United Nations. Many other countries vied with us to host the conference. The choice was not haphazard. The United Nations sent delegations to Egypt to make sure that it is able to organize such a big meeting and we demonstrated to everyone that we could do so. A comprehensive report was made about Egypt's capabilities.

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We received a letter of thanks, which we regard as a badge of honor. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How large is the U.S. delegation? We ask this because there have been reports that the U.S. representation is too high.

[Mahran] There are 500 U.S. delegates led by Vice President Al Gore.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Why does the United States want such a high representation?

[Mahran] The United States believes that economic development in other countries is a very important issue and that it bears a major responsibility to bolster this development. On close examination, U.S. policy under President Clinton is very different from what it was under Presidents Bush and Reagan. Perhaps you remember the 1984 Mexico conference when the delegates were shocked by U.S. President Reagan's declaration that he was withdrawing his support for family planning and cutting the aid that some countries used to receive for family planning purposes. Apparently he was influenced by a certain political or religious background. It is a different matter today. When the U.S. public voted for Clinton they did so on the basis of his electoral program, a major part of which was devoted to the population issue.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Bangladesh, Turkey, and Pakistan are Islamic countries concerned with family planning. President Suharto is also interested. This shows growing interest in the issue. What are these countries' positions on population?

[Mahran] The facts show that Bangladesh has made strides in this respect. Formerly, we used to pity Bangladesh for its poverty and high population increase. It has succeeded, however, in doubling its family planning efforts in the past six years. Pakistan is doing the same, but neither has done as much as Egypt.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] A leap ahead in this process is necessary. We want to ask if the success of family planning programs in these Islamic countries depends on legislation banning childbirth or legalizing abortion and vasectomies?

[Mahran] None of these countries, nor indeed other Islamic countries, have legislation organizing childbearing. They do have family planning programs.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do these programs include vasectomies?

[Mahran] Vasectomy is not a controversial issue like abortion. In abortion we sacrifice a living soul, in vasectomy we only sacrifice a thing.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Whether it is a living soul or a thing, has Bangladesh, for example, used vasectomies?

[Mahran] Bangladesh has used vasectomies for both sexes. Clerics do not oppose this because it is merely a surgical procers that prevents childbearing for a specific period, say 10 years.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How can one persuade a man to give up his maleness?

[Mahran] This happens in Bangladesh. In Egypt it is totally unacceptable. Even in India it is unacceptable. We must not forget that the vasectomy issue brought down Indira Gandhi's government when it went too far in this practice.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Are vasectomies being performed in Egypt now?

[Mahran] All family planning methods are being used in Egypt except vasectomies and abortion because they contravene shari'ah and traditions.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] People say that some private associations representing homosexuals will attend the conference. What is the story of these nongovernmental private associations. and what have they to do with a governmental conference on population?

[Mahran] This is an important question that gives me an opportunity to answer all these rumors. In the past, governments used to view nongovernmental associations working in the population field as obstructive and troublemakers. Four years ago when Egypt thought of hosting the conference in Cairo, the United Nations warned us against these associations. It even asked Egypt to completely separate government and nongovernment groups at the conference. In Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) the private associations were placed 60 km away from the governmental conference, something that resulted in many organizational and media problems.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How will they be separated in Cairo?

[Mahran] I proposed to distribute these associations in tourist areas in various cities, but by practice I discovered that most of these associations are not ill-reputed as some people think. Actually, they are very respectable people who represent their own people and believe in democracy and freedom of dialogue in everything. In the past two years a 180-degree turn has occurred. The United Nations, which warned against them, is now asking to provide them with care and to give them the same treatment accorded to governments. The U.S. secretary of the environment [title as published] has visited Egypt especially to make sure that the nongovernmental associations are given attention by the Egyptians.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How many associations are there?

[Mahran] There are 1,500 associations registered in the United Nations, so there is no need for concern because registration means that the United Nations must have

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checked them out. We will also check them out when they enter Egypt and will not let any unwanted person in.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the most important and strongest associations?

[Mahran] The women's associations, which mostly defend either undisputed issues, such as women's equality with men, or disputed topics, such as abortion.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the point of having associations for homosexuals at the conference?

[Mahran] There is no point. Because it is an international, not only Egyptian, conference and because several advanced and nonadvanced countries tolerate, and even legalize, such homosexual relations, it was natural that they be represented. Homosexuals now get married and the laws of marriage, whether regarding divorce, inheritance, or even child adoption, apply to them.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the rules made to check the behavior of these groups so that they may not embarrass the conference or the feelings of people in Egypt?

[Mahran] We are responsible for the conference's surroundings, because the grounds will be UN grounds. This is because the United Nations is the one sending out the invitations, organizing things, and is responsible for security inside the conference. As far as we are concerned, we have declared that we will not tolerate any action against the law, order, or public ethics in any place in Egypt. They have the right to say what they want and their views will be published, so there is no problem.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will they be allowed to demonstrate?

[Mahran] Yes, but inside and not outside the conference.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] And their private behavior?

[Mahran] The United Nations has a moral code that will be applied. They have not asked for our help on this issue unless disturbances happen, in which case the Egyptian police will intervene.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] These groups are then restricted to expressing views on the issues raised?

[Mahran] They are very rare groups and have no names; that is, there is no homosexual society, but they are active inside some societies. Therefore, there is no cause for fear because these groups will be contained 100 percent and their number is very small. There is cooperation between us and the United Nations to ensure that their presence will not cause problems.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Didn't the issue of terrorism exist when Egypt got the UN approval to hold the ICPD? How did the United Nations agree to hold the conference in Egypt despite the U.S. media's statements opposing the move?

[Mahran] The UN decision was based on several considerations, which are:

- Egypt has a population problem, and it is unreasonable to hold the ICPD in a country that does not.
- The United Nations recognized that Egypt has succeeded in confronting the population growth as evidenced by the Population Medal given to President Mubarak.
- Egypt has also succeeded in implementing the family planning policy without resorting to abortion, vasectomy, or force and has, therefore, become an example for the developing world countries.
- The prevailing tradition in the United Nations is to have each continent host the conference by turn. The last conference was held in Rome, Western Europe, and before that in Mexico, South America. If it is Africa's turn, then let it be in Egypt because it is an African country, in addition to the aforementioned reasons.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] And terrorism?

[Mahran] Security in Egypt was undoubtedly completely stable when the agreement was concluded with the United Nations, despite the disturbances taking place around us in the region. A wave of instability occurred after we obtained the approval and began to prepare for the conference. The issue (that of holding the conference in Egypt) was discussed in the United Nations. ICPD secretary Mrs. Nafis Sadiq came and met Dr. 'Atif Sidqi. Egypt made its position clear at the highest level when the prime minister said: "When we in Egypt become certain that the Egyptian Government cannot ensure security for the conference, we will be the first to tell the United Nations that we cannot hold it."

This statement apparently was not enough because the U.S. newspapers immediately launched an attack, claiming that Egypt was not safe and expressing fears over the conference guests. Support for holding the conference in Egypt did in fact start to recede and the agreement between Egypt and the United Nations was not signed. The latter asked that the signing be postponed, and it was signed only on 6 July during my last visit to Geneva. The signing of the agreement and the Population Medal given to President Mubarak meant that Egypt was safe and that there were no fears about the conference guests.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] We have learned that meetings have been held between UN security officials and Egyptian security men to verify Egypt's ability to confront terrorism.

[Mahran] Several committees have come to Egypt, including a committee dealing exclusively with security and made up of security men from the United Nations, the United States, and some European states. They met with Egyptian security officials and assured themselves about security in Egypt

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[AL-MUSAWWAR] Criticism of the conference has increased lately, particularly by the Vatican and some groups of religious terrorism!

[Mahran] It all started in Rome and the Vatican two or three years ago when pressure was made against the preparatory committees. The officials in the Vatican did not want us to mention the word family planning in the conference's document, but we disagreed and told them that family planning in our country is a settled question that is permitted by Islam. The fourth part of the ICPD document was issued in New York, but the pope viewed it as immoral.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What are the Vatican's goals in this?

[Mahran] The pope was right to object to some issues, such as abortion and perverted sexual practices, and we agree with him on these issues. However, the document did not make a single reference or mention any word to that effect, but the Vatican officials interpreted some words as meaning abortion.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How?

[Mahran] For instance, they objected to the words "the woman's right to safe motherhood" and thought that they meant abortion, although abortion is not the sole way for "safe motherhood" and the document itself did not mean it.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is behind this unjustified criticism, as you imply?

[Mahran] This storm was caused by some groups without any justification. They published reports in some newspapers abroad without even reading the document.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is al-Azhar's position?

[Mahran] I very much respect al-Azhar, which, before giving its opinion, asked to read the document in Arabic to issue its ruling accordingly.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is al-Azhar reading the document alone or in collaboration with experts from your ministry?

[Mahran] Al-Azhar has set up a committee led by His Eminence Grand Imam Shaykh Jad-al-Haqq 'Ali Jad-al-Haqq and comprising members from the Islamic Research Academy and others from outside the academy, including doctors and other specialists.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is the mufti a member of the committee?

[Mahran] No, but when I discussed the matter with him, the mufti immediately agreed to speak at the conference to announce Islam's view on family planning. His opinion is highly important because the Muslims number 1.2 billion people, which is the largest religious international grouping, and family planning programs exist in all the Islamic states.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] When will al-Azhar finish its report?

[Mahran] As far as I know, the report will be ready at a sufficient time before the conference.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do you anticipate a disagreement with al-Azhar over family planning?

[Mahran] I am not a preacher, but I do not expect one because al-Azhar clearly supports family planning and is against abortion and sexual deviations, which is exactly our position as a government and a people. So what would we disagree on? If some people disagree, it will not affect our position. I would like to seize this opportunity to announce through AL-MUSAWWAR that those who are raising questions about the conference are leaving 95 percent of the vital issues and concentrating on the remaining 5 percent. The conference's agenda is not confined to issues of homosexuals and abortion. It is a conference that addresses the environment, health, slums, endemic diseases, and immigration. For your information, the head of the Geneva-based immigration organization will attend the conference, and immigration is a serious problem in Egypt. But to confine ourselves to marginal issues that al-Azhar will settle is very astonishing and surprising for me. I ask these people: Hasn't Prophet Muhammad endorsed "isolation" [al-'azl] between man and woman? Isn't this religiously correct? The issue needs insight, not shortsightedness.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the view of the Egyptian church and his holiness Pope Shanudah personally?

[Mahran] As his holiness Pope Shanudah told me when I met him two weeks ago, the church's view is identical to that of Islam and differs completely from that of the Western Catholic view.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How?

[Mahran] Because he supports family planning and allows its practice through family planning clinics attached to churches. He does not sanction abortion and permits termination of pregnancy when the woman's health is endangered. He does not sanction any immoral practices and does not recognize any family other than that of husband and wife.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] But some of the political Islam groups believe that Islam's victory lies in increasing the number of Muslims. There are opinions that family planning is a U.S. plot to weaken Muslims. What is the Egyptian parties' stand on the ICPD?

[Mahran] The National Democratic Party has a clear view on this. There is a report from the People's Assembly's Health Committee and a report from the Consultative Council, which support the conference and family planning. We have decided to translate these two reports and distribute them at the conference because they are the views of the Egyptian parliament and voice of the people.

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[AL-MUSAWWAR] This conference is characterized by the availability of funds for the population issue plans. What is the status of these funds and are there contacts with the countries that will pay? Will these funds belong to the United Nations or will there be a special fund for spending on these activities?

[Mahran] There is a moral commitment by the rich countries to help the developing ones. This is not beneficial to the developing countries only but also to the rich ones. I will give an example of this, that of the problem of international immigration. This problem will not be solved if there is no real development in the countries from which immigration originates. Otherwise, the young will immigrate through all possible means and despite all barriers. There is an agreement that the rich countries will contribute specific amounts of money from their national income. This campaign is led by some countries, such as Norway. They want countries such as the United States and Japan to pay part of their national income for these programs.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Will the conference resolutions be binding on countries?

[Mahran] No one will be bound by any resolution. There are no resolutions to be imposed on anyone. This is stated in the document's preamble. Each country is guaranteed the freedom to take what suits its circumstances and traditions.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Moving from the general to the specific, we ask the minister: What level has the population growth in Egypt reached?

[Mahran] Some 2.2 percent.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Some believe that this rate has not been achieved as a result of family planning efforts but as a result of the poverty conditions and economic pressures.

[Mahran] On the contrary, because it is scientifically known that economic crises lead to an increase in the population growth rate. While we have achieved a reasonable level of limiting the population growth, this might not last long because this issue can be compared to dieting. A person might greatly reduce his weight during the first week of dieting but the difficulty begins after that. [passage omitted]

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What percentage of Egyptian women use family planning methods?

[Mahran] According to the latest statistics, 49.5 percent of Egyptian women use a modern family planning method.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is the percentage the same in rural and urban areas?

[Mahran] No, it is 60 percent in Cairo, 62 percent in Alexandria, and 24 percent in Qina Governorate. This governorate has made great strides. The ratio was 12 percent there four years ago.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the percentage in Asyut?

[Mahran] About 30 percent. When [Interior Minister] Major General Hasan al-Alfi was Asyut governor, he and his wife made a big effort in raising it to this level.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What did Maj. Gen. al-Alfi and his wife do?

[Mahran] He believes in family planning and women's causes. He formed a women's committee that operated through nongovernmental organizations. He gave special powers to the National Population Council and a building to use as headquarters. I made several visits to the governorate during that period and this doubled the popularity of family planning, although Asyut is a conservative part of the country and usually a difficult place in which to advocate family planning.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What percentage of women use family planning methods in Upper Egypt in general?

[Mahran] The rate is between 40 and 45 percent.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Child labor is on the rise. Some fathers rely on the proceeds of their children's work. Don't you feel that this phenomenon discourages family planning?

[Mahran] Yes, this is a big problem that has many causes, including lack of education. I believe child labor is a criminal thing. A father who deprives his son of education, exploits his labor, and lets him roam the streets is a "criminal" father.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Why are you silent about children employed in workshops?

[Mahran] We need to give guidance about child labor. According to one study we carried out, we found that Egyptian children are very productive and these workshops are more like training centers for them. Society needs this but there are conditions. A child's rights must be safeguarded. A child must go to school and work only during the summer vacation. It is important to preserve a child's health and morals. I visited a village in al-Minufiyah Governorate and found children working and earning 150 pounds a month. They do this because the village does not have clubs for them to spend their free time.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Can we say that family planning programs still have enemies? Is the traditional village mosque preacher still opposed to family planning?

[Mahran] Preachers play important roles in this respect.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Positive or negative?

[Mahran] Sometimes positive, sometimes negative, sometimes unconcerned. At a recent preachers' conference I met 1,200 preachers and discussed the issue with

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them. I visited al-Minufiyah and met with preachers there. I found them very understanding.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What does his eminence the mufti say about this?

[Mahran] He has announced that the Egyptian public is committed to its religion. He also said that a preacher's duty is to help solve the public's problems, including such matters as childbearing and education. The preachers' role in rural areas is very important. Rural mayors and shaykhs also play an important role. A village mayor enjoys society's respect. In rural areas he is a father figure.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Is he still regarded as such?

[Mahran] Yes, a village mayor enjoys much respect. When I visited Upper Egypt governorates, I used to request meetings with the village mayors because they are influential. They make decisions and immediately implement them.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Are midwives for or against you?

[Mahran] They are generally on my side. A midwife plays a very important role in assisting in childbirth and reducing infant mortality.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What proof do you have that midwives are now on your side?

[Mahran] Some 70 percent of Egyptian women give birth with the help of midwives. They do not go to hospitals. We must therefore raise the standard of midwives. A modern midwife is very different from the traditional one. She has more knowledge. We give them enlightenment courses. The Health Ministry also offers courses in midwifery.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] What is the role of the religious knowledge teacher, Arabic teacher, and traditional religious school in rural areas?

[Mahran] The Education Ministry now has a Population Programs Department. The education minister took care to include many subjects dealing with population and human reproduction in school textbooks.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much does Egypt spend annually on family planning?

[Mahran] About 86 million Egyptian pounds.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] How much foreign aid is given for this purpose?

[Mahran] The U.S. Government gives us $20 million annually for this purpose. The United Nations gives us $2 million. We get smaller amounts from countries like the Netherlands, Japan, and Germany. The sums they extend are spent on specific projects.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Are there restrictions on how this aid is used?

[Mahran] Every grant has restrictions. As soon as a grant agreement is signed, the sum in question becomes public Egyptian property. Thereafter the way it is spent is subjected to the strict control of the Central Auditing Bureau and the donor countries' control. There is dual control.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Do we manufacture all the contraceptives we use or do we import them all?

[Mahran] We manufacture all the birth control pills used in the country. Formerly, we also manufactured diaphragms but with the advent of more sophisticated models we began to import them. Now we have made a decision to manufacture all the contraceptives we use. Soon we will again be manufacturing diaphragms and syringes. The only contraceptive that we will not be able to manufacture is the "male protector" [not further specified] because it requires sophisticated technology and is made only by some Japanese and other Far Eastern companies.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Who produces these contraceptives, the state or the private sector?

[Mahran] We have allowed the private sector to do that. I also encourage this sector to import contraceptives.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Won't this raise their prices?

[Mahran] Their prices are high anyway but the government offers them to the citizens at low prices. If someone decides to buy from the private sector, that is his business.

[AL-MUSAWWAR] Thank you, minister, for giving us some of your precious time.

[Mahran] Please accept my thanks for giving me this opportunity.

Opposition Paper Editor Released From Jail

NC1808114594 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] AL-SHA'B military editor, colleague 'Abd-al-Sattar Abu-Husayn, was released last week after spending three months in military and civilian jails. As soon as he was released, he went to Suhaj, where his family lives. The Labor Party and the AL-SHA'B newspaper will hold a party in his honor, God willing, after his return from Suhaj.

Officer Suspended for Beating Citizen to Death

NC1808104194 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1025 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Excerpt] Cairo, 18 Aug (MENA)—Interior Minister Hasan al-Alfi has decided to suspend Captain Muhsin Badawi, an intelligence officer at the Hulwan Police Station and refer him to the public prosecutor for beating a citizen to death.

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Yasir Fath-al-Bab, a Hulwan resident, complained to the Interior Ministry that the officer beat his father to death. The Interior Ministry's investigations confirmed that the officer searched the home of Fath-al-Bab's father to seize an unlicensed weapon, booked him, and took him to the police station without informing his superiors. Minister al-Alfi decided to open an immediate investigation with the officer and his superiors for disobeying orders. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi: America Must Negotiate on Lockerbie

LD1608233094 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2014 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the people of Wadi al-Hayat; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] O brothers, the sons of Wadi al-Hayat, from al-Abyadh to Ubari, to Ghat and Birkat, meeting with you today, tonight, is another challenge to the colonialist and arrogant powers. We want to send them another message from Wadi al-Hayat. We want to challenge them with this gigantic dark-skinned force that abounds in Wadi al-Hayat. [passage omitted]

We tell them that we will not die in the siege, nor will we die in the embargo, nor from all the sanctions that are imposed upon us by America and its deceived [maghrour], isolated, and hateful allies who are [word indistinct] and are working against the international community. These countries removed their fig leaves even in front of the Security Council. [crowd chants against the sanctions]

O brothers, we tell them that they cannot impose a siege on or terrorize this gigantic force, this dark-skinned Arab force, this power that created life in this valley. [passage omitted]

These historic valleys, these deserts cannot be besieged, these high mountains cannot be vanquished, O brothers. These mountains have vanquished the aggressors in one age after another. These valleys are where the invaders were buried one age after another. And America, its armies, and its allies will be buried in these sands, in these valleys, and will be forgotten forever.

These are not the words of a [word indistinct] or of a zealot. We are standing here on the grounds of truth and reality amid the angry masses in Wadi al-Hayat, in the middle of a valley of ancient civilizations. [crowd chants in support]

O brothers, America and its allies, America's agents, the subservient and submissive, those who have abandoned their cause, and the cowards must kneel before the angry people. They must give in to the angry people. They must accept negotiations with the free people, with the people who have decided to accept the challenge. They must negotiate with the Libyan people for the face-saving of America and its allies. [crowd chants]

O brothers, if they want to solve the Lockerbie problem, if they want to find out the truth, if they want to save face, they must submissively negotiate with the Libyan people because any blockade will be a failure and any attempt at aggression will be even more of a failure.

O brothers, we tell them that we will never be vanquished and will never be beaten in our valleys, in our deserts, and in the depth of our large territory. They have no option but to submit to the Libyan people, to respect the Libyan people's need for stability, and to respect their sovereignty. They will be compelled, they will be compelled—whether they like it or not—to respect the free people, the people who are masters over themselves, who are trained and armed. [crowd chants] [passage omitted]

O brothers, we tell them that they are wasting their time and are rowing against the tide. They are attempting the impossible if they are thinking of imposing a siege or invading these valleys. [passage indistinct]

Address at Oasis of Murziq

LD1708215594 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 2017 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Speech by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi at the Murziq oasis; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] I would like to express my happiness at meeting my kin in this valley, in this town, and in this very region. [passage omitted]

Today we are facing new challenges. We say to America and to her allies, who count on the lackeys, we say to them that the Libyan people are determined to fight for their freedom and for sovereignty over their land to the last man and the last woman. I tell America and the allies of America that the master people, the trained people, the armed people will put up an extremely strong resistance.

I say today from this Wadi, as I said yesterday in Wadi al-Hayat: We send another message from [word indistinct], from the heart of Fezzan, we send a message to America, the allies of America, and the lackeys of America in the Arab area. We say to them, oh brothers: It is impossible to besiege these deserts; it is impossible to besiege these valleys that are roaring with life; it is impossible to besiege these dark-skinned masses [samra'], masters of the desert, masters of the oases, and masters of the south.

Oh America: The desert, the deep valleys, and the high mountains are very difficult for you to besiege or to spoil or to defeat or to make bow down. America is bound to bow before the desert. America is bound to bow before

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the master people. America is bound to bow before these sands, before these lofty mountains. And the struggle continues.

Regime Accused of Fomenting 'Enmity' Among Tribes

MM1508093494 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 2 Aug 94 p4

[Excerpts] London, AL-HAYAH—The Libyan opposition has warned against the "cheap attempts" by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi "to turn the Libyan tribes against one another and create enmity and foment sedition between them."

In a speech to the tribes in al-Zintan region last week, al-Qadhdhafi fiercely attacked what he called "spies" and said that all Libyan tribes want them executed. He referred in particular to those who made confessions on television admitting responsibility for the military mutiny that occurred last October in the region of Bani Walid. [passage omitted]

In a statement, a copy of which was received by AL-HAYAH yesterday, Abrik Asuwaysi, official spokesman of the Constituent Committee of the Libyan Movement for Change and Reform (opposition), said that the movement "condemns everything al-Qadhdhafi said in his speech including the threat to liquidate and execute those honorable sons of Libya, and it emphasizes the following:

"1. The arrest of those men was part of al-Qadhdhafi's continuous policy of destroying all national civilian and military elements whose loyalty to him personally and to his dictatorial regime he suspects.

"2. Those men were subjected to the ugliest forms of torture and insults which even included their families and relatives. Showing those men on the Libyan television screens confirms that they were tortured into making the confessions they did.

"3. Since seizing power, al-Qadhdhafi has been in the habit of accusing everyone who disagreed with him or rejected his dictatorial regime, whether civilian or military, in the country or abroad, of being a traitor and agent of U.S. intelligence, and other things. Al-Qadhdhafi did not even exclude the Arab leaders who disagreed with him at one time from such accusations.

"4. Al-Qadhdhafi's cheap attempts to strike at the Libyan tribes and create enmity and sedition between them are not new to Libyan society. Al-Qadhdhafi's speech in al-Zintan region was a part of these desperate attempts to foment sedition between the Libyan people, but the Libyans are now fully aware of his aims which are exposed to all."

The movement appealed to "all Arab and international organizations interested in human rights to intervene quickly to save the lives of these men," and it reaffirmed "continuation of its struggle for legitimacy, democracy, and protection of Libyan human rights." [passage omitted]

Morocco

King Hassan II Receives Iraq's 'Aziz

JN1708191594 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1815 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Rabat, 17 Aug (INA)—Moroccan King Hassan II today received Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz, President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy.

During the meeting, Tariq 'Aziz conveyed a verbal message from President Saddam Husayn to his brother King Hassan II, dealing with relations between the two fraternal countries, the current Arab situation, and Iraq's cooperation with the UN Security Council.

Attending the meeting were Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellatif Filali, the Moroccan foreign minister, and the Iraqi ambassador to Iraq.

Envoy to UN on Polisario Human Rights Violations

LD1708131794 Rabat MAP in English 1248 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Geneva, Aug. 17 (MAP)—Morocco's delegate to the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights invited Tuesday non-governmental organizations [NGOs] which care about objectivity to investigate the situation in the Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] camps where human rights are systematically violated.

Taking the floor in the works of the sub commission in his capacity as delegate of an observer state in the sub commission on prevention of discrimination and protection of minorities (states and NGOs only have an observer status), the orator drew the participants' attention to the use by some NGOs of the Sahara issue to deceive the international public opinion. The Moroccan delegate recalled that Morocco received the congratulations of the UN mission in the Sahara for its full cooperation. The delegate also invited NGOs wishing to know the truth to read reports of the UN secretary general which says how the Polisario fails to cooperate with the UN to hold a referendum in the Sahara. The representative then invited all the organizations to conduct investigations on human rights violations in the Polisario camps, breaches that were also condemned by Amnesty International.

The orator also urged the sub-commission to put an end to behaviors of the "international league for the peoples rights and liberation" which continues to circulate lies about the Kingdom and is thus discrediting all NGOs working for the promotion of human rights.

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Sudan

Egyptian 'Acts of Annoyance' Said To Continue

EA1708160294 Khartoum SUNA in English 1340 GMT 17 Aug 94

[All sentences as received]

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 17 August (SUNA)—The acts of annoyance and "war of streets" committed against the employees of Sudan Embassy in Cairo have [word indistinct] increased for the eighth consecutive day, a foreign minister official disclosed.

Addressing the ministry's regular forum on Tuesday [16 August], first undersecretary Yusuf Baridu said the disturbances have got more fierce on the eighth day in the anti-Sudan accusations and shamelessness directed by Egyptian President Mubarak against President al-Bashir in a accordance with the Egyptian (?press) campaign.

Reviewing the said acts of bothering, Baridu confirmed (?that) the Egyptian authorities have not issued orders for halting these irresponsible acts. The anti-Sudan Mubarak-led campaign emerged due to failure of Egypt towards facing Sudan accusations on Hala'ib and other issues through the regional and world organizations, he said. The Egyptians stance could not be isolated from their hosting to the outlaws movement, the terrorist who recently kidnapped a Sudanair plane, the Sudanese opposition and the so-called legitimate leadership, he said. [passage omitted]

Extradition of 'Carlos' Viewed, Debated

Al-Bashir Lauds Security Service

EA1708215094 Khartoum SUNA in English 1712 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 17 Aug (SUNA)—President of the Republic, Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir has said that the capture of notorious international terrorist Carlos is a clear indication of the efficiency of the Sudanese security organs. Speaking at his regular press briefing Wednesday [17 August], President al-Bashir said the Sudanese security organs had kept Carlos under close watch and monitored his movements till information which led to his capture was completed.

The security organs reported their suspicions on the terrorist immediately after his arrival, opened a file for him and gave him a code name—the ghost—President al-Bashir said, adding that the security authorities continued to deal with Carlos' file until his real identity was established.

Al-Bashir said that the Sudan extradited Carlos to France in accordance with an official request by the French Government, in which it stated specific criminal charges against him, which were certified by international legal institutions, pointing out that Carlos's extradition to France also came in affirmation of the Sudan's principles, which ban sheltering criminals, as well as the country's commitment to international law.

Al-Bashir strongly denied that Carlos's transfer to France took place on the basis of any informational, diplomatic or political stances, on that it involved any kind of trade-off. "The Sudan will never sell its principles," President al-Bashir stressed, recalling the Sudan's solid adherence to its principles during the Gulf War and his rejection of all sorts of bargains.

"I would like also to stress that the extradition operation was not intended to please anyone or to work for removing the Sudan from any list," al-Bashir said, adding that "this is because we know that putting the Sudan on the U.S. terrorism list was baseless and unfounded and those who put our name on the said list are well aware of this. They also know that it is a hostile act against the Sudan."

Meanwhile, al-Bashir pointed out that Carlos's capture affirmed the Sudan's capability to protect its decision of leaving its door open before Arab nationals without visas, saying that the security organs' efficiency will deter criminals wanted and lawbreakers from entering the Sudan.

He indicated that Carlos's case doesn't mean that the Sudan will extradite any person wanted for political reasons or any mujahid who sought refuge in the Sudan, affirming that giving refuge to the mujahidin who seek refuge in the Sudan is a duty.

Details of Arrest Reported

NC1808121094 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1105 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Khartoum, 18 Aug (MENA)—The Sudanese Government newspaper AL-INQADH AL-WATANI [NATIONAL SALVATION] today revealed new details of the arrest and handover of international terrorist Carlos. According to the newspaper, Carlos entered Sudan several months ago using an Arab diplomatic passport. Although the name in the passport was Arab, Carlos' features and his accent did not suggest he was Arab. He spent some time at the (?Mashhar) Hotel and made several telephone calls overseas, which were all made in one language, that of his country, Venezuela, something that increased the suspicion surrounding him.

The newspaper notes that in the evening Carlos would visit a club frequented by Arabs. When asked, Carlos said he came from a Lebanese mother and a Latin American father and that his name was 'Ali. From the hotel, Carlos and his German wife Magdalena went to a house he rented in Khartoum. His movements and overseas contacts increased the security authorities' doubts and suspicion and they stepped up surveillance and opened a special file on him. They finally recognized Carlos after checking the information available to them against the information supplied by the French authorities along with an extradition request.

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The paper adds that when the security authorities finally confirmed his real identity they did not arrest him; they stepped up their monitoring and surveillance operations. The time between the discovery of his true identity and the extradition request was not long. In the first week of August, Khartoum received information from Paris along with an extradition request and an Interpol report listing the crimes Carlos had committed. The paper adds that during the period—under two weeks—between his being identified and his extradition, the official authorities focused on studying the Interpol report, the French request, and the legal procedures involved.

The paper notes that before being handed over to France, Carlos underwent minor surgery. Copies of a medical report on the surgery were handed to his wife and to Interpol. The security authorities seized Carlos at 0400 on Sunday [14 August] and took him to Khartoum Airport, where a group of Interpol officers was waiting to receive him. They put him on board a French military plane that flew him to the Villacoublay Military Base in Paris.

The paper points out that following Carlos' departure, his wife left Sudan for the place from which she had arrived. She had $30,000 and 200,000 Sudanese pounds in her possession, out of which she paid the rent of the house they had been living in. His wife shopped at the market.

'Carlos' Said in Khartoum a Year

LD1708193294 Paris TF-1 Television Network in French 1800 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Speaking on Sudanese Government radio, General al-Bashir this evening congratulated the security services for having, as he said, monitored Carlos's movements since he entered the country. Didier Chauffier, our special correspondent, met the head of the Islamic Republic of Sudan. Here is the report he managed to phone through to us from Khartoum.

[Begin Chauffier recording] Carlos's luxury villa is in fact only a small apartment block near Khartoum airport. He occupied the whole of the ground floor, with a quiet apartment that is nothing to look at. One room, with a mattress on the floor, is strewn with Lebanese magazines, American papers, and above all, dozens of whisky and beer bottles. He does not seem to have lost his bad drinking habits, even in an Islamic country. Obviously this goes against Sudanese customs.

It appears that he arrived in Khartoum about a year ago, before moving into this apartment in December, where he lived with his new girlfriend, a Palestinian, and members of his group. The least that can be said is that it took some time—nearly (?a year)—for the Sudanese and French to realize who they were dealing with. It seems that it was his Iraqi diplomatic passport that confused his trail for a long time. [end recording]

Minister Denies Pressure Applied

EA1708160794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, minister of state for political affairs at the Presidency of the Republic, yesterday commended the Sudanese security organs and their success in accomplishing what the security organs of over 80 other states had failed to achieve. He said: Our security organs' success is testimony to their competence and ability to bring to book anyone attempting to destabilize this country's security.

He said suspicions over the identity of Carlos had arisen a few weeks after he entered Sudan, but the security organs did not have sufficient evidence to arrest him. He was, however, kept under surveillance until information was received from French intelligence, which sufficed to clinch the issue.

Dr. Ghazi Saleh al-Din went on to say that the Sudanese authorities had examined the request to arrest him in the light of the criteria determining the considerations of the faith, foreign relations and political philosophy. It was established that the criteria identifying a refugee did not apply to Carlos.

He said the handing over of the international terrorist, Carlos, had not taken place as the result of pressure brought to bear by any international or local quarter. He criticized the conclusions of some international mass media to the effect that the operation was undertaken in the context of an arrangement.

Position on Terrorism Said Same

EA1608165594 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Excerpts] Dr. Ghazi Salah al-Din, the minister of state in the office of the president in charge of political affairs, has reiterated that Sudan is always against violent acts that target the innocent. [passage omitted].

Speaking from the regular forum of the Foreign Ministry today, his excellency denied that Sudan's action of handing over Carlos the terrorist to the French authorities to enable him to stand a fair trial is in the context of conciliation and a change in Sudan's political thinking as analyzed abroad. [passage omitted].

Mr. 'Umar Baridu, the first undersecretary of the Foreign Ministry, also spoke at the forum about the harassment and provocations of Sudanese diplomats in Cairo by the Egyptian security organs. He said these acts stem from the Egyptian authorities' failure to respond to Sudan's accusations against Egypt made through official memoranda to the United Nations. He said these onslaughts, which are led by Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, confirm Egypt's failure to face Sudan on the disagreements between them and to allow international arbitration. [passage omitted].

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'Carlos' Said Traded for Aid

MM1708133694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Husni Khashabah, Amir Taheri, and Muhammad Sadiq: "Anger Exchanged Over Details of Khartoum-Paris Deal"]

[Excerpt] London, Paris, Washington, Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Carlos, who is considered the biggest terrorist of the century, appeared before Jean-Louis Bruguiere, the judge responsible for terror files in France, in Paris yesterday. He was officially charged with the killing of two French citizens, in preparation for opening the biggest file of operations attributed to him throughout the world.

Carlos' trial began amid angry exchanges during which French Interior Minister Charles Pasqua appeared furious while denying the existence of a deal between Paris and Khartoum, which arrested Carlos last Sunday and extradited him to France on Monday (the day before yesterday). But Carlos' lawyer spoke about a deal, saying that the Khartoum government has received the cost of the man's extradition. This was confirmed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in London yesterday by Aldo Aju Deng [as transliterated], former Sudanese deputy prime minister and agriculture minister, who was also deputy speaker of the Transitional Assembly. He differed with 'Umar al-Bashir's government. Deng said that Carlos' extradition was a barter, but it does not at all mean that the Khartoum government has changed its policy of supporting and exporting terrorism, since there are still organizations embraced by Sudan to exercise international terrorism.

The former Sudanese official pointed out that France offered Sudan military aid (a group of air surveillance maps of the bases of the Popular Front/the Popular Army for the Liberation of Southern Sudan) [as published], in addition to credit facilities to purchase Airbus aircraft.

The official said that in view of the present bankruptcy and collapse, Khartoum can find no other price to pay except Carlos, who is probably no longer useful. But it is retaining extremist organizations that are more important than him. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Issues Decree on Civil Defense

EA1708140794 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Brigadier General Dr. al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr, interior minister and head of the civil defense organ, has issued a decree establishing a central room of operations for civil defense, under the leadership of the director of the general department for civil defense, with a number of representatives of ministries as members. His excellency issued a decree establishing civil defense committees in all the states, under the chairmanship of the governors of the states and with representation by the relevant authorities. The decree specified the jurisdiction of the committees and the formation of operations rooms in the states and it specified their tasks and duties. His excellency also issued a decree delegating his powers, as head of the civil defense organ, to the governors of the states.

SPLA-United Spokesman on Resigned Officials

AB1708122294 London BBC World Service in English 1515 GMT 16 Aug 94

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] The southern Sudanese rebel movement, SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army]-United, has given its first reaction to the resignation this week of four of its most senior spokesmen. Yesterday on this program, SPLA-United's former foreign affairs spokesman said the four were unhappy with progress towards reuniting the two wings of the movement, and they put the blame equally on the mainstream leader, John Garang, and on SPLA-United leader Riak Machar, who broke away from Garang three years ago. Well tonight, Riak Machar's London spokesman, Machor Kwandong, came into the studio, and Johnny Skit asked him if he accepted the reason the four men had given for resigning:

[Begin recording] [Kwadong] Not at all. First of all, these people did not say exactly what is their real reason of resigning. The real reason of their resignation is, in fact, that they are refusing to go to south Sudan under the SPLM- [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement] SPLA-United-controlled area to attend a peace conference there.

[Skit] Are you saying they are refusing to go to south Sudan to attend a peace conference? What sort of peace conference is this?

[Kwadong] Of course, there is a peace conference between the people of Akobo-Nashir, the natives who have fought before, and the people are in the process of making reconciliation between them. It is a conference of the people under the control of the United SPLA to resolve their differences.

[Skit] Now, according to your sources, you spoke with Dr. Machar. Why are they refusing to go to this peace conference?

[Kwadong] Well, the best reason to them is that they see no reason for them to go to that peace conference because they think that it is just a minor issue between two districts which could be, in fact, resolved by the people who are down there.

[Skit] But when I spoke to them, they criticized Dr. Machar for not doing enough to bring about unification.

[Kwadong] Yes, of course, the point.... [pauses] I think they are not right in saying that. First of all, they themselves know very well that it is the chairman of the

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SPLM-SPLA-United, Dr. Riak Machar, who had been pursuing unity, ever since he brought about the struggle of the south to issue of self-determination, leading to the independence of the south.

[Skit] How worried are you about the loss of these four people?

[Kwadong] Well, of course, it is normal. There is no worry at all.

[Skit] But it is not normal to lose four senior people. You've lost the secretary for external affairs, civil administration, and so on. Four senior people have left your organization, that is normal?

[Kwadong] Well, of course, these four senior people, they are there in name. First of all, since they joined the INEC, or the Interim National Executive Committee, they haven't gone to their constituency, where they are supposed to administer their movement from there, and so they sit in Nairobi. I think their going, there is no problem about it because they are not, after all, contributing to the day-to-day administration of the movement. [end recording]

Western Sahara

Morocco Accused of Obstructing Peace Efforts

LD1408224994 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] The Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] today expressed the belief that Morocco's rejection of OAU participation in a settlement of the conflict in the Western Sahara would lead to a final freezing of any peaceful and just solution. The Saharan minister of information said that a situation such as this must be clarified given that the OAU was a party to the plan for a settlement in general. This Moroccan rejection would lead to a final freezing of a solution and would do away with the peaceful efforts of the international community in the Arab Maghreb region.

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Kuwait

Demand That Iraq Meet Resolutions Reiterated

MM1708132694 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Muhammad al-Dumyan and Khalil Matar: "International Insistence on Iraq's Recognition of Kuwaiti Borders"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait, New York—Kuwait yesterday demanded Iraq's full and clear implementation of all the international resolutions. It stressed that the Kuwaiti constants have not changes. Meanwhile, the president of the UN Security Council confirmed the existence of an Iraqi inclination to issue a statement recognizing Kuwaiti sovereignty over the borders demarcated by the United Nations. This Iraqi position comes prior to the next review of the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

A senior Kuwaiti official has stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Kuwaiti constants vis-a-vis Iraq have not changed, namely the need for Baghdad to comply with all the international resolutions concerning the war to liberate Kuwait before demanding the lifting of the sanctions imposed on it.

Commenting on the statements attributed to the Security Council president about an Iraqi pledge to recognize Kuwait's sovereignty on the basis of the UN-demarcated borders, the official stressed that Kuwait demands the Iraqi regime's "full and clear implementation of all the international resolutions, especially that it recognize Kuwait's sovereignty and independence and release the POW's and the detainees held in its jails."

Du'ayj al-'Anzi, director general of the Kuwaiti National Committee for POW's and Missing Persons, said that Kuwait hopes Iraq is not maneuvering to circumvent the resolutions of international legitimacy in a bid to lift the economic sanctions imposed on it.

Al-'Anzi stressed to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that the Baghdad government is required to prove its good intentions, namely by implementing all the international resolutions concerning the war to liberate Kuwait, especially recognizing Kuwait's sovereignty and independence and releasing the POW's and the detainees held in its jails.

Al-'Anzi pointed out that the POW's and detainees issue has entered its fourth year, and the fate of some 625 prisoners is still unknown. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Bhutto Remarks on Kashmir, Bosnia, Relations

BK1708163494 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto has reaffirmed that Pakistan will not change its stand on Kashmir as a result of pressure or blackmail. Talking to reporters in Doha at the end of her three-day visit to Qatar, she expressed regret at the Indian prime minister's recent remarks. Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto asked India to pave the way toward resolving the Kashmir issue through negotiations. She recalled that Pakistan has sent two proposals to India and is ready to hold purposeful talks with India if it receives a positive response to this gesture. She said that age-old issues are being resolved throughout the world. Why, then, can the Kashmir issue not be resolved through negotiations, she asked.

On Bosnia, the prime minister said that there is unanimity on the issue among the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] contact group. She said the ICO is also unanimous about keeping an eye on the Middle East peace process to ensure that the interests of the Islamic community are protected.

On bilateral economic relations, the prime minister said the Qatari energy minister will visit Pakistan to hold talks on transporting natural gas from Qatar to Pakistan. Referring to cooperation between Pakistan and Qatar, the prime minister said the amir of Qatar has welcomed the supply of trained Pakistani manpower to his country. She said that apart from this, they also held talks on other areas of cooperation, including the establishment of joint ventures in fertilizers and sugar. Details in this regard will be worked out at the Pakistan-Qatar joint commission meeting later this year.

Yemen

Libya's al-Kharubi Received by Salih, Departs

JN1708203694 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Lieutenant General brother 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, Presidential Council chairman, today received Colonel brother Mustafa al-Kharubi, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Command Council. He gave the president a message from his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the 1 September Revolution, dealing with bilateral ties. The message also contained an invitation for the Presidential Council chairman to visit Libya for the ceremonies marking the 25th anniversary of the revolution. It also addresses issues and developments of interest to the Arab nation.

During the meeting, they discussed brotherly ties between the two countries and ways to further increase them.

Al-Kharubi congratulated President Salih on the victory achieved for the cause of unity in Yemen, noting that this success makes all Arabs proud. He reiterated Libya's supportive stand on Yemen's unity. The Libyan official declared that the road of Arab unity leads to Arab prosperity.

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President Salih told al-Kharubi our government and people are grateful for the Libyan brothers' support, indicating that our people will not forget that the Libyan brothers stood by them during the difficult period forced on us by the separatists. Libya's proclamation of the day the traitor al-Bid declared secession as a day of mourning testifies to a genuine pan-Arab stand. Our Yemeni people, added the president, were deeply moved by that gesture. He asked al-Kharubi to convey his greetings to his brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and wished continued progress for the bilateral ties.

Brother al-Kharubi and his delegation have since left Sanaa. On hand to see them off were brothers 'Abd-al-Qadir Ba Jammal, deputy prime minister; a Presidential Council protocol officer; and brother Bashir al-Sharif, secretary of the Libyan Brotherhood Office in Sanaa.

Letter Received on 'Separatist Elements' in UAE

JN1708191794 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has received a message from his brother His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan, president of the sisterly United Arab Emirates [UAE], on fraternal relations and issues and developments that concern our Arab nation.

The message stresses that the misled, secessionist, and separatist elements who sought refuge in the UAE will not be allowed to carry out any activities that would undermine the distinguished fraternal bilateral relations. The message also reiterates the UAE's concern for security and stability in Yemen, as an important factor for security, stability, and peace in the region.

Brother Sayf al-Mansuri, UAE Ambassador to our country, conveyed the message when the president received him today.

Deputy Chief of General Staff Appointed

JN1808063494 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Aug 94

["Text" of Yemeni Republican Decree No. 39 of 1994 issued in Sanaa on 17 August]

[Text] Cognizant of the Constitution of the Yemeni Republic and Law No. 67 of 1991 on the Armed Forces and security service; in accordance with a suggestion made by the defense minister and a briefing by the acting prime minister; and citing the approval of the Council of Ministers and the Presidential Council, the chairman of the Presidential Council decrees the following:

Article I: Brother Staff Colonel Muhammad Rajih Labbuzah shall be appointed deputy chief of the General Staff.

Article II: This decree shall take effect as of the day it is issued and shall be published in the official gazette.

Issued at the Republic's Presidency in Sanaa on 11 Rabi' al-Awwal, 1415 Hegira, corresponding to 17 August 1994.

[Signed] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council; Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-'Attar, acting prime minister; Staff Brigadier General 'Abd-Rabbuh Mansur, defense minister

Contacts, Support of 'Carlos' Reported

MM1708140094 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 94 p 1

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Arab diplomatic sources have revealed that the Yemeni Embassy in Damascus used to take charge of the contacts between Yemeni security services and Armenian, Palestinian, Italian, and Japanese terrorist elements belonging to the Armenian Revolutionary Army, the Italian Red Brigades, the Japanese Red Army, and extremist factions in the Palestinian resistance.

The sources said that the group led by the international terrorist Carlos was among the groups whose members held normal diplomatic passports issued and renewed at the Yemeni Embassy in Damascus.

The sources stressed that Carlos frequented Aden and Sanaa and, during his last visit to Sanaa less than two years ago, stayed in a suite at the Republican Palace.

Well-informed sources have said that security authorities in Aden assigned Carlos to assassinate former South Yemen President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad twice in 1986 and 1987 after he left power following the 13 January 1986 incidents, namely by shooting him or by using poison extracted from qat leaves.

However, high-ranking Yemeni sources warned 'Ali Nasir the first time, and Arab security services warned Carlos the second time of the dangers of the task assigned to him, both to him personally and to his group. So he completely backtracked on its implementation. He was again assigned the same task after the achievement of unity, but he refused to accept the task.

The sources added that during that visit he was paid the rest of his fees for unknown operations and activities abroad. He also received a sum totaling $500,000 in cash before being moved by private plane to the al-Biqa' valley in Lebanon.

The Yemeni independent weekly AL-AYYAM, which is published in Aden, had revealed a visit to Sanaa by Carlos, but, in a bid to conceal the truth about the visit, Yemeni security authorities quickly accused the newspaper of harming the country's reputation.

The diplomatic sources stressed that Carlos met during his last visit to Sanaa with Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, who had known him through a former South

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Yemen president and a southern minister who held the post of state security (intelligence) minister in the south.

The copy of the South Yemeni diplomatic passport obtained by AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT [a photograph of the copy accompanies the article] carries the name 'Abd-Rabbuh 'Ali Muhammad, a pseudonym for Carlos. 'Abd-Rabbuh is a common name in Abyan Governorate.

The sources say that Carlos is implicated in the murder of Judge 'Abdallah al-Hajri, former North Yemen prime minister, who was killed at Lancaster Hotel in London in 1974.

Carlos is also suspected of killing the North Yemeni diplomat Muhammad Ahmad Nu'man in Lebanon in the early seventies. The reasons for Carlos' last visit to Sanaa, which took place after the establishment of Yemeni unity, are not known, nor are the justifications for paying him that sum of money.

Al-Anasi on YSP Exclusion From Coalition

MM1708145994 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Anasi, Yemeni deputy prime minister and secretary general of the Yemeni Reform Grouping, by Lutfi Shatarah; place and date not given]

[Excerpts] [Shatarah] The deadlines specified by the amnesty decision ended the day before yesterday. Is there any news about extending it?

[Al-Anasi] The decision is supposed to be valid on the date specified. I have no information about its extension. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Does the existing alliance between the Yemeni Reform Grouping and the General People's Assembly cancel the government coalition of which the Socialist Party was part?

[Al-Anasi] The tripartite coalition was established on the basis of a document called the Document on the Coalition among the three parties. It was established on foundations and fixed principles. Since the beginning of the war we have given unionists in the Socialist Party the chance to preserve this coalition, and the last attempt was the proposal presented by the Reform Grouping and the congress, provided a meeting was held in Cairo under the coalition's auspices.

But it seems that the crisis the Socialist Party leadership is experiencing and the difficulties facing the unionist tendency inside the party wasted this opportunity. We have been told that some members were aware of the importance of seizing such an opportunity. When we reexamine the foundations on which the coalition was established, we find that the Socialist Party leadership has abandoned them.

[Shatarah] Does that mean that the tripartite coalition has ended?

[Al-Anasi] Yes, the tripartite coalition among the Reform Grouping, the People's Congress, and the Socialist Party has ended. [passage omitted]

[Shatarah] Does that mean that the government formation will be shared between the Reform Grouping and the People's Congress?

[Al-Anasi] It has not been determined exactly, and the new coalition from which the government will be formed is under discussion.

[Shatarah] Do you mean that the Socialist Party is not a party to it?

[Al-Anasi] Some Socialist Party leaders stressed and stated that they will not participate in the coalition and that they will opt for opposition. [passage omitted]

YSP Officials on Condition, Future of Party

Need To Rebuild Seen

MM1708153194 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Interview with Anis Hasan Yahya, member of the Yemeni Socialist Party Political Bureau, by 'Abdallah Hammudah in Abu Dhabi; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Hammudah] You were head of the Socialist Party's parliamentary bloc in the unified Yemeni House of Representatives and also speaker of the provisional national assembly in the Democratic Republic of Yemen [DRY]. What is your position now on the unity and secession issue?

[Yahya] Any thought of the DRY now is a delusion. Because the war and its outcome has destroyed what we were forced into. And we should secure favorable conditions to enable all parties to join the unity on the basis of equal citizenship.

I would like to stress once again that the DRY proclamation was not a fundamental aim; it was compelled and it has collapsed, and there is no justification for adhering to it now. But some brothers in the southern alliance continue to adhere to the DRY on the basis of the state institution proclaimed. At the same time we should not forget that the war has deepened the suffering of citizens in the southern and eastern governorates, and we have to tackle this issue.

[Hammudah] And how can this point be tackled in current conditions?

[Yahya] The solution lies in bringing to fruition conditions suitable for the achievement of a federal union. It is a political view which needs to be addressed in reality. And the Pledge and Accord Document tacitly pointed to this question when it spoke about a decentralized system

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based on an administrative division whose units are "provinces" and elected councils in these provinces. [passage omitted]

[Hammudah] What is the Socialist Party's position on participation in power?

[Yahya] I believe that we should keep away from participation in power. Because when the party was in power, it acted in a manner inconsistent with its view of numerous issues.

The pressing task now is to rebuild the party, and remaining in the opposition is a constructive and responsible position that is bound to keep us—temporarily—away from the effects and results of the war.

[Hammudah] What is the relationship between the call for rebuilding the party and the reports about the threat of splits occurring among its ranks?

[Yahya] The threat of a split exists, and it existed before. The authorities have always sought to create imaginary parties and organizations. And they are seeking to exploit the results of the defeat in the war in order to create inside the party elements espousing loyal orientations and implementing the authorities' instructions.

And these efforts are continuing with a view to turning the Socialist Party into more than two parties. It is an expected threat, and the good forces in the Socialist Party should focus on rebuilding the party on correct foundations.

And I expect the party to lose some elements, whether in the higher leadership or at the middle level and grass roots. However, it has good forces inside and outside the country capable of safeguarding its cohesion. [passage omitted]

Rift, Damascus Conference Viewed

JN1708164794 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 15 Aug 94 pp 1, 4

[Report by Iqbal 'Ali 'Abdallah in Damascus]

[Excerpts] Damascus—Salim Salih Muhammd, assistant secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP], says the rift within the party will be wide ranging. Opposition to the statement the party issued in Damascus came from the YSP's political bureau in Sanaa and its central committee abroad, Muhammad told AL-HAYAH before leaving Damascus with Yemen's former Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas for Jeddah. [passage omitted]

I must say that those who declared opposition in Sanaa were acting under pressure. Those based abroad condemned secession and are opposed to this trend. A third trend emerged at the party conference in Damascus last week that did not want a statement to be issued and suggested that we accept defeat and learn the lessons of the war and secession and that the Democratic People's Republic of Yemen is now history, so let's look to the future.

Muhammad said he felt the YSP could use an institutional mentality. We want to build a real party in touch with bread and butter issues. The Sanaa-based YSP members will want to carry the party behind them and will claim the right to speak for it. A resident of Sanaa cannot identify with the people of Hadhramaut just as an Aden resident cannot identify with the concerns of Sanaa residents. The answer lies in a correct and equal relationship based on mutual recognition, and acceptance of the existence of different trends. [passage omitted]

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Trade Minister Views Ration Card System

JN1408155994 Baghdad AL-TIAWRAH in Arabic 7 Aug 94 p 7

[Report on interview with Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih by 'Izz al-Din al-Mani'; date and place not given: "Saddam Husayn's Table Ensures Food Fairly for Every Iraqi, Arab, and Foreigner in Country; Ration Card System Is Comprehensive, Precise, and Fair and an Effective Weapon Against Blockade; Computerization of Ration Card System Will Eliminate Faults and Produce Accurate and Dependable Statistics on Iraqi Population"]

[Text] On this day in 1990, the enemies imposed their unjust blockade on our dear Iraq and steadfast people with the aim of humiliating the Iraqis and depriving them of food, medicine, and the means of progress and cultural advancement.

A few days after the announcement of the blockade, which was planned by world Zionism and U.S. imperialism and implemented by the UN Security Council, leader President Saddam Husayn instructed the Trade Ministry to protect and preserve rations and to take immediate measures to distribute food among the citizens according to a ration card system, as an effective weapon to confront and foil the blockade.

The Trade Ministry carried out the leader's directives precisely in a successful and scientific manner. This was certified by an international study group of 87 researchers in the various economic, engineering, environmental, health, and social fields. Called the "Harvard Group," it visited the country and closely monitored the implementation of the ration card system in more than 30 cities. The group praised the comprehensiveness and fairness of the system and noted the efficient management of the system since its application in 1990.

Trade Ministry personnel rolled up their sleeves and pooled their creative resources in order to achieve the impossible and ensure food for all people in equal, subsidized portions, saving them from the specter of hunger and death behind the enemy blockade.

On 5 March 1991, these portions were increased by orders from the leader president in accordance with a program carried out in stages. The increase ranged from 25 to 125 percent. These portions cost the government more than $90 million monthly, or an equivalent of more than 40 billion dinars at the current market exchange rate. The rate of subsidy which the government provides for all is 99.7 percent of the actual value of the items they obtain monthly under the ration card.

The ration card system was not carried out haphazardly, nor was it conceived on the spur of a moment, but was one of the seeds sown by the glorious 17-30 July Revolution in every public utility and establishment. Thus, on the fourth anniversary of the successful application of this system, and in order to obtain more information about this potent weapon against the unjust blockade, we met with Trade Minister Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih, who accompanied the application of this system, lived all its moment, and followed all its steps.

We asked the minister: How did your ministry succeed in applying this system in such an organized and precise manner? What measures were taken to overcome some of the difficulties that faced the system at the initial stage?

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih said: The guidelines and direct supervision of the leader president, may God preserve him, have had a big effect in ensuring food for the sons of our steadfast dear people under the ration card in equal subsidized portions under sound procedures. The system was supplied with the basic foodstuffs needed by the Iraqi family. These foodstuffs were increased from time to time whenever our capabilities permitted.

Since the beginning of the odious blockade, the personnel in the Operations Room of the Trade Ministry have held daily meetings to discuss the food situation, the local market, and the problems facing ministry organs and the methods of tackling these problems. They also discussed the progress of work in the mills and silos, the problems facing transporters and distributors, and the need to encourage control teams to perform their work in the best manner possible. This is in addition to dealing with the situation in the central markets and other matters that contribute to improving the ration card system, which has proved to be successful and viable.

The minister added: The Trade Ministry has succeeded in achieving self-sufficiency in foodstuffs for all Iraqi citizens and Arab brothers and foreigners who are resident in Iraq in accordance with a very fair and precise system. I must point out here that the ministry does not receive any of the aid certain regional and international organizations contribute. That is the responsibility of other official quarters, such as the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Red Cross Society, and the Health Ministry. It is very limited and symbolic aid, and not very regular.

We asked the minister: What is new in the ration card system?

The minister said: We have begun computerizing the ration system by entering all data. We are about to complete this task. We have entered the entire Iraqi population, including Arab and foreign residents, who are covered by the ration card system, on the basis of governorates and the entire country. The computerization process will help us detect any incorrect information and any fictitious or extra ration claims in any part of the country. We have already computerized the process of food supplies to the distributors. We have also computerized the marketing and storage of grain in silos and depots throughout the country. An accurate scientific

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system was set up to control the supply of grain to mills and to monitor the distribution of rations to the agents.

The minister pointed out that the expected, or actual, annual increase in population is 1.5 percent. Therefore, the ministry can punish any violator of the system who is discovered by the computer by charging him the value of the additional items he receives illegally at the current market price. The total value of fines which have been charged so far has reached more than 9.5 million dinars.

The minister explained that his ministry has set up a central price control system and that it has managed to reduce the price differentials occurring from month to month. It has also regulated the movement of citizens from one town to another. The minister said the ration card system is comprehensive, precise, and fair. He said that were it not for the leader president's direct supervision, monitoring, support, and directives, we would not have been able to carry out our work with such precision and resolve.

Dr. Muhammad Mahdi Salih said: It is a sufficient honor that our beloved leader has honored us by an entry that we will cherish all our life and hang as a medal on our chests. He said in a memo which he entered with his own hand: "God bless the faithful Trade Ministry personnel who have performed their duties toward their people in the most difficult and complicated circumstances and during the darkest days we have ever faced."

Al-Mani': So, what is next?

The minister said: It is useful to explain certain aspects and objectives of the Revolution Command Council decree which authorized us to seize any mill that does not conform to the established conditions or hesitates to carry out its duty.

This decree has given mill owners a new responsibility. They must redouble their efforts by implementing the plan within the time limit and not waste time, because the question of carrying out the task by the established time is important and worthy of respect.

Regarding the other measures carried out by the Trade Ministry personnel to tackle what was destroyed by the enemies and sabotaged by the traitors and lackeys, the minister said: Ministry teams have succeeded in reconstructing 138 projects destroyed or sabotaged during the criminal 30-state aggression and the chapter of treason and treachery. They included several silos, cold storages, grain and food depots, mills, and central markets. They have all been reconstructed by depending on local rather than imported materials, using national skills.

Regarding the marketing of grain, the minister said the ministry has succeeded in ensuring all the requirements for the success of the campaign for collecting the wheat and barley crops from peasants and farmers. This includes the generous offer made by leader President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, by increasing the purchase prices of grain on several occasions, thus providing an incentive to the farmers to increase production.

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Rabin Comments on Political, Economic Issues

TA1808053094 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin by Karmit Gay and Shlomo Raz; place not given—live]

[Text] [Gay] Good morning Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

[Rabin] Good morning to you and to the listeners.

[Gay] Where are we standing on the early empowerment talks with the Palestinians?

[Rabin] Next week an attempt will be made to reach an agreement in four areas. Understandings have been reached on two of the areas, in fact on all four. I am referring to education, health, social welfare, and tourism. The complicated issue is that of taxation, both direct taxation and value-added tax. This will probably entail a long process of building up their taxation network. The early empowerment [last two words in English] issue is based on the principle that the transfer of authority is functional, that is, relating to specific areas; and personal, that is, referring to the Palestinians only. It does not change the overall structure and responsibility which remains in the hands of the Israeli military commander and the Israeli Civil Administration, which incidentally is made up mainly of Palestinian employees.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, can we say that the agreements being worked out by the Liaison Committee in Cairo will solve the rather difficult crisis between Israel and the PLO?

[Rabin] First, let us put things in perspective. The most difficult argument concerns security in the Palestinian Authority areas, mainly in Gaza. The Palestinians still have to prove they are vigorously acting against extremist terrorist elements—Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], Islamic Jihad, and one or two other rejectionist organizations. This is not a verbal test, it is a test on the ground. We realize that the Palestinians are still not operating as vigorously as we expect them to—as we believe they should be in order to maintain law and order in Gaza and Jericho.

[Gay] Do you believe they have any chance of achieving this situation?

[Rabin] IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and security elements, as well as myself, assess that they can attain this situation, certainly much more than they are doing today.

[Gay] Why are they not doing this?

[Rabin] This is why we are demanding that they do so, because this is part of the agreement. I hope and believe they got the clear message imparted in past and present meetings—including the Alexandria meeting—that we expect them to do their job.

[Gay] Meanwhile IDF soldiers cannot pursue terrorists beyond the borders of the autonomy and the refugee camps.

[Rabin] As I have already said, we got out of Gaza. We do not want to be in control of Gaza City, Dayr al-Balah, Khan Yunus, and Rafah, and neither do we want to enter the refugee camps. We regard this as their duty.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, no joint statement on fighting terrorism was issued in Alexandria last night. Nabil Sha'th said something on the issue, but the fact is that there was no joint statement.

[Rabin] I think that the important thing that was done in Alexandria and in other places is that we clarified our position, namely, charging them with the responsibility. I hope they got the message.

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, another issue we want to discuss is the chief of staff's visit to the United States, where he is discussing security arrangements on the Golan Heights. What can we learn from this?

[Rabin] The chief of staff presented a general situation report on the radio. He did not enter into details of the security arrangements. He tried to explain the meaning of peace with Syria, what kind of comprehensive security arrangements we would like to have in principle, without drawing maps or entering a territorial division of borders. He presented his, or rather the IDF's, position according to which we should not completely withdraw from the Golan Heights even during peace.

[Raz] Do you also subscribe to this position?

[Rabin] I permitted him to present his position.

[Gay] Mr. Prime Minister, another issue hotly debated is the issue of your credibility. Two months ago you said that the stock market would not be taxed as long as you are prime minister, whereas two days ago you said the opposite, that is, you announced the plan to tax stock market profits. Even those who are not your firm political opponents say your credibility, which is your greatest asset as prime minister, has been damaged.

[Rabin] I indeed heard such reactions. I did not make my decision easily. We should distinguish here between two issues: the economic issue and the issue you raised. I had hoped that the influence of housing and other issues on inflation would be smaller than it turned out to be. We have witnessed three years of economic growth which is almost unparalleled in the Western world. This growth is the main economic issue that demonstrates the strength of our economy. Now, however, we are encountering an enemy in the shape of inflation, and we must deal with it comprehensively, not with one step. We hope that our efforts in this direction will bear fruit toward 1995, with whose budget we are currently dealing.

In the past I supported preserving the stock market's strength. Now that we are facing different circumstances and inflation seems to be on the rise, we must implement

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steps to curb this. We decided to implement steps to unfreeze land for new housing projects. I hope that the Israel Land Administration will accept government resolutions 611 and 441 on turning over more agricultural land in high-demand areas from Karmi'el in the north to Ashqelon in the south for housing projects.

At the same time Treasury and Bank of Israel officials said that we must find financial resources for fighting inflation and reducing the tax burden, especially in areas which have ramifications on inflation—obviously not immediate, because the reform will be fully implemented only on 1 January 1995. At the present only a beginning has been made.

I had to decide whether the new circumstances justify a new attitude on my part. Had I considered merely my political position, what is termed my credibility—which I believe is solid and strong—I could have stated two or three days prior to the announcement on the new measures that I am reconsidering my previous position. I think that had I done so I would have made things easier for myself, but it would have harmed the new move, which was implemented without any leaks to the press. When I had to decide between the good of the issue and my personal good, the issue took precedence.

[Gay] I think, however, that beyond this specific issue of taxing the stock market, which is likely to be debated for a long time, people can say that if the prime minister goes back on such binding statements he can also retreat from other statements he has made in the past, such as that we will not withdraw from the Golan Heights even for peace, and other statements which are more dramatic and significant than the stock market.

[Rabin] I will answer this question. There are two economic issues that a prime minister and finance minister are not obligated to speak the entire truth about: a devaluation or a significant tax policy change. The reason is that any statement on these issues, whether affirmative, negative, or simply vague, could harm the issue. There are other issues which are similar in this respect, such as the security sphere. More than once in the past correspondents have noticed a concentration of army forces along the Lebanese border, or some sort of alert situation in anticipation of an operation, and have asked me whether these preparations have been made in anticipation of an imminent attack. I believe that in such cases we must clearly state that there is no intention to launch an operation even when in fact such an operation will indeed be launched. There are circumstances in the security sphere involving human lives—which is the most important thing—regarding which one cannot speak the entire truth, or is even forced to speak a non-truth regarding what is going to take place in order to ensure the success of the operation and to minimize the harm to IDF soldiers.

Turning to the political sphere, I believe that if there is a divergence between new political decisions and what has been promised on the eve of elections—take the Golan Heights and peace with Syria as an example....

[Raz, interrupting] And the negotiations with the PLO. Likud spokesmen say you promised that we will not negotiate with the PLO, and we all know how things turned out.

[Rabin] I am speaking now about peace with Syria. I have said that if the government agrees to implement a significant withdrawal in exchange for peace, and if this goes beyond what we stated in the past, then we have to receive the nation's mandate for this move by means of a referendum. If peace with Syria requires a significant withdrawal, then, since certain things have been told to the voters on the basis of which they may have decided to support me and my party, we must seek the nation's support. I believe we should do this by means of a referendum, because this is a specific issue, not a general election which deals with all spheres, not merely this specific one. I am convinced that I have acted correctly, because the success of the move...[changes thought] I am not an economist. When both Treasury and Bank of Israel officials tell me that these moves are necessary in order to provide us with necessary funds for fighting inflation in a more equitable way than through income tax or indirect taxation, and this runs contrary to my previous position, should I prefer my personal prestige and harm the cause by preparing the public beforehand for what is in store, or should I prefer the good of the cause to the personal issue, which is being blown out of proportions?

[Raz] Mr. Rabin, beyond the issue of credibility, Likud Chairman Netanyahu is criticizing the government's economic policy. Yesterday he recalled the funneling of funds to the kibbutzim. I think he said that every kibbutz member would receive about 100,000 shekels.

[Rabin] Look, it is legitimate to argue about economic policies. This government has been in power for over two years; it has reduced unemployment, it is changing the transportation map in the country, it has boosted education in a manner unparalleled in the past, and the economy keeps on growing all the time. Now, referring to the kibbutz movement, the first financial arrangement for solving the kibbutzim crisis was carried out during the national unity government period. During this first stage, hundreds of millions of shekels were funneled. I think this government has a commitment to Israel's agricultural settlements, both kibbutzim and moshavim. We regard it as vital to defend the Israeli rural settlements. Our agricultural settlements in the Ta'anakhim district, the Lakhish district, and near the Gaza Strip have been harmed. The former are not similar to the Judaea and Samaria settlements which are merely night stopover spots. They constitute a productive agricultural network, and we deem it necessary to support this movement, which determined our pre-state borders. Today it is part of the productive forces of the country and plays a significant part in the settlement deployment

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in sovereign Israel. What is the purpose of building more settlements in Judaea, Samaria, or in the Gaza Strip, when those living in the settlements in the Lakhish and Ta'anakhim districts and along our northern border have been facing hardships over the last nine years, since the political changeover in 1985, which saved our economy, but severely harmed them?

[Gay] Sir, you mentioned 1995, but now I want to ask you about 1996. Are you not afraid you will have to pay a heavy political price for what can be termed your damaged credibility?

[Rabin] At this moment I am not concerned about 1996 or about how people will react to what just took place. I see ahead of us two years of strenuous activity based on the government's general policy of advancing the peace process. The agreement with the PLO paved the road for the agreement with Jordan. Without the former we would not have attained the latter. There are significant developments in the agreement with Jordan. Our tourism minister already visited the Dead Sea Moriah Hotel to work out tourism plans. Energy and Infrastructure Ministry officials and Israel Electric Corporation personnel are already planning....

[Gay, interrupting] I am more interested in your political future.

[Rabin] I am more interested in what we will achieve during the next two years than in what people will have to say about me during the 1996 elections.

Rabin: Final Model May Differ From Gaza-Jericho

TA1808103894 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 18 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by Amir Neumann]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday implied that the final model for arrangements in the territories may differ from that of Gaza and Jericho. He said that in addition to providing security for settlement clusters, the arrangement will include security zones. The prime minister refused to elaborate on this issue. He made these remarks at a meeting yesterday with NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset members [MK's] at his Tel Aviv office.

The NRP MK's, who had initiated the meeting, sought clarifications of various security and political issues. MK Yitzhaq Levi, the NRP secretary general, presented his party's request to open the Cave of the Patriarchs for prayer during the upcoming high holidays. Rabin promised to act toward reopening the cave as soon as possible. [passage omitted]

MK's Aver Sciaki and Hanan Porat spoke of the settlers' difficult security situation and for the need to establish "red lines" and give the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] freedom of action in the territories.

The prime minister told the NRP MK's that early empowerment, which is currently discussed with the Palestinians, is defined as the bestowing of functional powers only in definite civilian spheres, and that the government does not plan, for the time being, to discuss territorial partition and the transfer of additional security powers to the Palestinian Authority in the framework of the negotiations. He maintained that Israel will retain full control over security in areas in which early empowerment is implemented. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 18 August carries a related report by its party affairs correspondent on pages 1 and 2, adding: "Prime Minister Rabin stressed that Israel does not intend to define territorial partition during the early empowerment stage, which will be functional: 'They will have education in places in which they have schools, they will conduct their health affairs in places in which they have hospitals, and so forth.'"

[Rabin is further cited as saying that "there will be no Palestinian police in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza [as published]. He noted that Israel has only agreed to unarmed tax supervisors. He further stressed that the PLO will be tested by its antiterror activities on the ground, and these activities will be the criteria governing future stages."]

Detentions by PLO Said PR 'Exercise'

TA1708145294 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that most of the detentions conducted by the Palestinian police following the terrorist acts in Gaza were political, and that in Israel's opinion, this is not a firm action. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the prime minister said this at a meeting with the National Religious Party Knesset members. They claimed that the PLO does not act against terror, and that the detentions carried out are a public relations exercise only.

Chief of Staff Baraq Visits Washington

Meets With Shalikashvili

TA1708184194 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by Ya'aqov Ahime'ir, following Baraq's meeting with his U.S. counterpart, General Shalikashvili, in Washington on 17 August—recorded]

[Text] [Ahime'ir] Did you and the U.S. general review the possible security arrangements in the event of a peace settlement between Israel and Syria?

[Baraq] We talked about the security implications of possible arrangements and about the security problems involved. We did not review the details of the solution,

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but rather the types of processes and issues which will be under discussion when we reach that stage with the Syrians.

[Ahime'ir] Did you also review Israel's intelligence needs, the possibility of sending U.S. soldiers as part of an Israeli- Syrian peace settlement?

[Baraq] I cannot give details. This is not the right thing to do now for many reasons, but reference here is to the U.S. Army and Pentagon who have backed us in the security sphere for many years, and it is very important that they understand the nuances of the security problems which may arise as a result of the arrangements with the Syrians.

[Ahime'ir] Will these be grave or complicated security problems for Israel?

[Baraq] Every security arrangement involves very difficult problems, especially a security arrangement with a country with which we have had several wars over the years. In the framework of security arrangements it must be ascertained that a surprise attack will be impossible. This is a very complex issue and we will carefully consider it.

[Ahime'ir] Did Gen. Shalikashvili show sympathy for these Israeli needs and express readiness for U.S. participation if and when a peace settlement is achieved with Syria?

[Baraq] Gen. Shalikashvili is an impressive, talented, serious, and experienced person. He is part of a much larger system with which we are conducting a dialogue on many levels, and I have no doubt that he will contribute his share according to his considerations and understanding.

Says Golan Withdrawal Not Advisable

TA1808091194 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Interview with Lieutenant General Ehud Baraq, chief of staff, by correspondent Arye Golan in Washington; date not given—first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] Chief of Staff Ehud Baraq says that from the military and professional points of view it is advisable that we remain on the Golan Heights during the peace as well, because we need to maintain a hold on the Golan. Lieutenant General Baraq made these remarks after a meeting in Washington with U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry; General Shalikashvili, the head of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and National Security Adviser Anthony Lake. Our correspondent in Washington Arye Golan spoke with the chief of staff:

[Begin recording] [Golan] Lt. Gen. Baraq, can we learn from your meetings here in Washington that the time has come for practical discussions on peace, withdrawal from the Golan Heights, and the necessary security arrangements?

[Baraq] In my opinion my meetings here mean nothing of the kind. I think that the time has not come for such discussions, whether internal discussions, discussions with the Syrians, and certainly not with the Americans. We spoke about some of the security problems which might emanate from the continued development of the political process.

[Golan] Did you explain to your interlocutors what we expect from the United States in terms of security arrangements on the Golan Heights?

[Baraq] We did not discuss details. It is too early for this, things are not ripe for discussing the details, among other things because the dialogue with Syria has not left home base yet. The security arrangements will primarily have to be worked out between us and Syria, and there is no point in discussing them with the Americans....

[Golan, interrupting] But the United States may have to send soldiers.

[Baraq] Israel is not demanding that they send soldiers. I do not know if this issue will be raised in the future. I am convinced, however, that it is too early to discuss this now and I am not sure it will be raised in the future or that it will be implemented. I do think, however, that we should maintain an ongoing dialogue with the United States about the security aspects and the kinds of security arrangements that may be necessary, because the United States makes a large contribution to this issue, and at the moment is greatly contributing to making our discussions with Syria possible from the technical point of view.

[Golan] As a military person and a chief of staff, how do you regard the possibility that in order to attain peace with Syria we might be forced to withdraw from the entire Golan Heights?

[Baraq] I do not believe this issue is ripe for discussion. We were certainly not required to deal with this. As military people our position is well known: from the military and professional points of view, as long as there is no peace we need every meter of the Golan Heights. Even in peace it would be advisable that we remain on the Golan Heights. At the same time, we are forbidden from assessing what decision the elected government will make. It is obviously authorized to make a different decision—whether only marginally or substantially—than our professional position. I am convinced, however, that we will know how to explain the ramifications of any decision made in the future as well as what will have to be done in order to back it up from the professional point of view.

[Golan] Even if optimal security arrangements are implemented between us and Syria, then you would not support a complete withdrawal from the Golan Heights. Where exactly do you recommend leaving the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] on the Golan?

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[Baraq] I do not think I should comment on this. These are purely political issues under the responsibility and treatment of the elected Israeli Government. This is how it should be, and it is inappropriate for a chief of staff—even if he is out of uniform and in Washington—to deal with this issue at all. [end recording]

Foreign Minister Peres To Meet 'Arafat in Gaza

TA1708180494 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Shim'on Peres will meet with Yasir 'Arafat on 19 August in Gaza. This will be the first visit by a senior Israeli personage in Gaza since the arrival of the PLO leadership there. Our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik reports that Peres will accompany the Norwegian foreign minister and Foreign Ministry leadership who will arrive tomorrow for meetings with the Israeli and Palestinian leadership, marking the end of a year for the Oslo agreement.

IDF Forces Kill Gazan Trying To 'Infiltrate'

TA1708190894 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] A Gazan who tried to infiltrate into Israel through the border fence in the Rafah area was shot and killed by the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports the Gazan was a 17-year-old youth. Representatives of the Israeli and Palestinian liaison office began investigating the circumstances of the incident. IDF's Military Police is also looking into the matter.

Minister Cited on Deal With Jordan To Buy Iraqi Oil

TA1808090194 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 18 Aug 94 p 1

[Report by David Makovsky]

[Text] Israel has reached a tentative agreement whereby Jordan will sell Israel cheap Iraqi oil, Labor Party ministers were informed by Energy Minister Moshe Shahal last night, according to sources.

Should the deal go through, it would apparently be a violation of international sanctions that the UN imposed on Iraq following its invasion of Kuwait.

Shahal was not available for comment or confirmation.

Sources say the energy minister also told his colleagues last night that Israel and Jordan reached an agreement on linking electricity grids in the al-'Aqabah-Elat area in a bid to save money during peak hours.

Shahal said the cost of the hook-up to Israel would be $940,000, and it would cost Jordan only a fraction of that price, but both sides would save money over time.

Foreign Ministry Team To Lobby Against Iran

TA1708152994 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 17 Aug 94 pp A1, A10

[Report by political correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Israel will present to the industrialized countries, led by the EU members, the danger inherent in Iran, and will appeal to them to limit the economic ties with and the sale of advanced technology to the Iranian regime.

A team, headed by Yo'av Biran, assistant director general and coordinator of peace process, was set up in the Foreign Ministry this week. The team was set up to coordinate political activity against Iran.

Senior political sources said yesterday that according to a decision by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Israel will not lead the international struggle against Iran, but will rather cooperate with the United States on this matter. The messages which Israel will relay through diplomatic channels will not present Iran as a threat to Israel, but rather as a danger to the entire West due to its efforts to obtain nuclear weapons and its support for terror.

Various personages appealed to the prime minister in recent weeks, suggesting that he adopt a firmer anti-Iran policy, against the background of disappointment with the U.S. policy. According to data possessed by Israeli bodies, the scope of U.S. trade with Iran reaches $3 billion annually, partly through other countries and straw companies. The open U.S.-Iranian trade volume amounts to about $700 million annually.

So far Israel has failed in its efforts to convince the European countries and Japan to restrict their extensive trade relations with Iran. Japan informed Israel that it will reconsider its policy toward Iran only if real evidence is cited about Iran's involvement in terrorist and subversive activities overseas. The United States is currently exerting pressure on the Japanese to delay the transfer of money promised for the construction of a dam in Iran. [passage omitted]

Next week, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will discuss with German Chancellor Helmut Kohl the danger in Iran's nuclear project. Peres will demand that Kohl tighten the control over the export of technology which can also be used for the development of nonconventional arms and missiles. [passage omitted]

Tourism Minister: No New Tourist Projects in Golan

TA1708111994 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 17 Aug 94 p 2

[Report by David Rudge]

[Excerpt] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am yesterday declared that his ministry would not support investment in any new tourist projects on the Golan.

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However, he stressed that the ministry would continue to assist existing tourist sites and help ensure that projects already under way would be completed.

Bar'am, who spoke to reporters during a tour of the North, including the Golan, said he could not ignore the political changes in the region.

"We are dealing with specific points on the Golan the same as anywhere else. But I can't say that the fact that there are negotiations with Syria, or that negotiations are due to get under way with Syria, are not affecting my policies. They do influence my policies," said Bar'am. [passage omitted]

Likud's Netanyahu Assails Rabin, Economic Policy

TA1708183094 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Likud member Gid'on Pat yesterday expressed support for the new economic measures, but today, Likud head Binyamin Netanyahu strongly attacked the prime minister and the new economic measures. Netanyahu says that Mr. Rabin has again proven his lack of credibility after recently announcing that stock exchange profits will not be taxed. Mr. Netanyahu emphasizes that Rabin has violated every promise he made to the public, including political promises.

Netanyahu notes that the prime minister represents a policy of economic zigzagging, shamelessly misleading the public and initiating economic instability. The public lacks trust in the economic leadership and without it restraining galloping inflation and stopping spiralling housing prices is impossible.

Direct Telephone Links To Open With Tunisia

TA1708185394 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Announcer-read report]

[Text] Effective next month, Tunisia intends to take some steps to improve its relations with Israel. This transpires from the official talks held for the first time between Israeli Government representatives and Tunisian Foreign Ministry officials. Our political affairs correspondent Shlomo Ganor reports that one of the steps that have been agreed on is the opening of direct telephone links between the two countries.

Our correspondent adds that Morocco has decided to expand its relations with Israel and will now cover postal ties. A few weeks ago Morocco had inaugurated direct telephone links with Israel.

Commentary Faults Northern Command Chief's Actions

TA1708174694 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT (24 SHA'OT supplement) in Hebrew 17 Aug 94 p 3

[Commentary by Ron Ben-Yishay: "Northern Exposure"]

[Text] Once, in the 1970's, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] "green berets" used to say that the Air Force was an alien but friendly army. Today the General Staff says the same about the Northern Command, but with a lot less affection. Some generals have said openly that they do not know precisely what goes on in the security zone, because in recent years, it has become a quasi-autonomy, and any information issued from there is meticulously sifted in advance.

A similar sentiment prevails in Jerusalem. Following a particularly painful wave of Hizballah terror some time ago, reporters heard a senior public figure angrily explode: "I am not sure it is entirely the Hizballah's fault," said the politician, a man with an eminent military past. He is not the only one.

This sentiment is unjustified at least with regard to the Northern Command commander, but they reflect disrupted information flow from the field to the decision-makers, and most pointedly, to the public. Moreover, the IDF top brass, as well as the political echelons are refraining, for some not entirely clear reasons, from posing harsh questions to the Northern Command commander. His versions are usually accepted without argument.

In this context, some General Staff members mention the two lethal electrocution accidents in the security zone this year. Both occurred in the same place and in almost the same fashion. After the first accident, the Northern Command commander issued detailed instructions designed to prevent a recurrence. Yet four months later, two more soldiers died because of the same high power line dangling too close to the road edges.

The Investigative Military Police, as well as a Northern Command inquiry commission, launched an investigation. Yet even before it was completed, newspapers ran prominently featured reports entirely faulting the sector brigade commander, "who did not ascertain that the Northern Command commander's orders were being implemented." The reports maintained that the blame was shared by the Lebanese and Israeli electricity corporations' personnel, who did not respond to the general's demands to raise the cable to sufficient height promptly enough. Only the Northern Command commander came out squeaky clean.

The responsible IDF ranks did not even raise an eyebrow or wonder why the general had not been held even partially accountable. Were these not his orders, and was he not responsible for ensuring their implementation—especially in a life-and-death matter?

The media asked no questions, either. Surprising? Not necessarily. The personal attention the general has been paying the media and its representatives is bearing fruit. Any journalist's attempt to do his job on the Northern Command territory without the general's close supervision and guidance is doomed to fail.

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In June, for instance, I asked the IDF spokesman's permission to visit IDF positions in Lebanon. Some time later, I was invited to accompany the Northern Command commander on his tour of the al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rayhan outposts. I had not sought to accompany the general, but since I was glad to visit the area, I complied. We reached the place in a helicopter, and I attended the general's meetings with local commanders and troops. Shortly before our departure, one of the commanders came up to me and told me: "You, journalists, have forgotten us," he said. "A war is being waged here, but no one is writing or speaking about the men who patrol the area and are constantly shelled. Excuse me for saying so, but someone should tell the public what goes on here and who is doing the job. You people only rush to cover funerals and cemeteries."

Moved by the company commander's words, I promised to come back to talk to him and his men the following week, to stay two or three days and write a long and detailed article about them. Then and there, I requested the permission of the Northern Command commander and the IDF spokesman to return to the outpost in order to make good on my promise. My request has not been answered to this day. I have repeatedly appealed to the IDF spokesman, who did recommend that the chief of staff permit me and other reporters, who had approached him with similar requests to meet the troops, and the chief of staff was apparently inclined to respond favorably. Yet Major General Mordekhay vetoed the matter. Similar requests to tour the field, made in recent months by other newspaper editors and reporters, remained unanswered.

Maj. Gen. Mordekhay argues that he limits journalists' visit only in al-'Ayshiyah and al-Rayhan, and even that is done on operational grounds. Yet any reporter covering Lebanon knows that the area is practically off-limits for him. (Only one reporter was permitted to enter one of the particularly quiet outposts three weeks ago.)

Only when the Northern Command scores a success does it permit a television crew and a few reporters to in the area, in order to photograph and document the dead terrorists and their weapons (with the Northern Command commander looking on, of course), and as soon as they finish their job, they are politely asked to get out.

A possible explanation of the "off-limits command" phenomenon is the impending round of senior IDF appointments. Maj. Gen. Mordekhay is not concealing his desire to be appointed deputy chief of staff, and he is possibly afraid that uncontrolled media reports will "spoil it for him."

We can understand him, but we cannot understand the chief of staff and the political echelons, who permit him to run the Northern Command as if it were his private estate, obstructing the public's right to know (in the boundaries of military censorship, of course). It is mainly unfair for soldiers at outposts and on patrols, for men who bear the brunt of the fighting in Lebanon, to feel that the home front has forgotten them, that it does not appreciate them and their contribution.

The Northern Command commander, whose reaction to these allegation we have requested, chose not to comment.

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King Comments on Jerusalem, Peace, Arab Ties

JN1708144394 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Interview with King Husayn by radio correspondent Randah Habib in Amman, carried jointly with Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Habib] Your Majesty, at the time of this interview, your people are celebrating the passage of 42 years since your accession to the throne. This anniversary comes at a time when you have fulfilled some of your wishes by laying the bases of regional stability and pushing Jordan toward comprehensive development under the canopy of peace. After this long rule, do you see a close end to the dark tunnel that has enveloped the region for the past five decades?

[Husayn] Yes, I see an end to this tunnel and a beginning of a new phase in people's lives in this part of the world, so they will enjoy what we have been deprived of over the years and since the very beginning in terms of security and stability. Thus, people will reach a situation in which they can achieve their objectives and goals in a normal atmosphere which will be the antithesis of the anxiety that I and others have experienced for 42 years.

[Habib] Your Majesty, it is natural to begin the questions with the Jerusalem issue. You asserted that you do not need an invitation to visit the holy places in holy Jerusalem because you are an Arab, a Hashemite, and a Muslim. You also drew a dividing line between this matter and the invitations extended to you to visit the holy city. When can we expect Your Majesty to perform prayers in the al-Aqsa Mosque? Can this take place on Prophet Muhammad's anniversary in the next few days?

[Husayn] Actually, it is premature to talk about this visit. Naturally, as a Muslim, a Hashemite, a Jordanian, and an Arab, I wish I could pay this visit soon. However, the visit will not take place as quickly as some people imagine.

[Habib] Following the historic steps you made on the path of peace, how do you see the shape of the coming phase on the Jordanian-Israeli track? What are the expected steps regarding Jordan's sovereignty over territory and water? When do you expect these steps to be crowned with a comprehensive peace agreement?

[Husayn] The talks and the negotiating process are continuing on all topics listed on the agenda which was approved at the beginning of this phase. The results have thus far been encouraging. I believe that the general atmosphere is positive and constructive. I also sense a real desire—not only on our part but also on the part of the other party concerned—to achieve quick progress and address all these issues to reach a point where all these efforts will be crowned with a peace agreement or a peace treaty. Moreover, it is difficult for me to define dates because there are numerous issues and matters that should be addressed such as border demarcation and water, which need more time. However, efforts are being made, and the atmosphere is positive and encouraging. I believe that matters are proceeding in the right direction.

[Habib] Your Majesty, more than two thirds of the members of the House of Representatives have expressed their support for your peace moves despite the existence of opposition in parliament. Do you believe that this majority cancels the need for a referendum, taking into consideration that Article 33 of the Constitution gives the king the right to declare war and peace?

[Husayn] This is the true state of affairs, and this is the Constitution. When I did what I did regarding ending the state of war, I was very certain that I represent the viewpoints of the vast majority of the Jordanian people toward peace which is a dear objective to everyone, a comprehensive peace which I hope will be achieved in this region to guarantee the rights of all sides to be able to enjoy its results. Jordan's story is very long in terms of its struggle, stands, endurance, and sacrifices, and in that it is actually the country of the muhajirin and ansar [reference to Palestinian emigrants and Jordanian supporters], the one family of all origins. Peace has always been our objective, but the recent developments have entrenched our conviction to take action. There were also the Egyptian-Israeli treaty, and later the Palestinian move which was made by the PLO, the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian Arab people based on the clear will of the people, which we recognized at the Rabat summit in 1974. Time is now ripe to tackle our issues and affairs. Praise be to God, I was sure of the results. I believe that I not only express my own feelings, but what is in the minds and consciences of all Jordanians, or the vast majority of them. I am proud that I am one of them and for them. I am happy with the atmosphere at the House of Representatives regarding the opinions and stands of the people's representatives. Of course, nothing will be presented to the House until after the picture becomes complete regarding the current negotiations, or we will present this to the entire people within the framework of a great national referendum. I say this because we respect the other opinion, democracy, and the freedom of expression within the constructive limits and law which applies to all regarding everyone's rights. However, if the issue is that of claiming that what we have done does not represent the Jordanians' opinions, I will then be ready, taking into consideration that I give their opinion first priority, to put my past and present as well as my stand to the test if necessary so that we can know what is the size of this opposition. Personally, I believe that it is limited and only represents the very small minority out of the sweeping majority of this good and brave Arab people who have offered sacrifices. No one can rightly claim that they have made greater sacrifices than this people. The issue is left for the future. It is not subject for discussion at present because the final picture has not yet been crystallized. It will be finalized as a result of the current negotiations.

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[Habib] Your Majesty, concerning the Palestinian and Jordanian tracks, they are proceeding in the absence of coordination between them, as if joint interests no longer exist. Despite Jordan's interpretation of the Jerusalem issue, it created a clamor in PLO circles, and the economic agreement which was signed early this year is still unsettled. Now, the Palestinians are talking about the possibility of holding a Jordanian-Palestinian summit, and a delegation is scheduled to come to Amman. Do you believe that the door is still open before serious coordination between the two sides?

[Husayn] We have always been advocates of coordination and cooperation. We have always believed in an established fact; namely, the joint interests, interrelated issues, and the one family, and that our situation differs from that of any other Arab brothers in terms of our closeness to the [Palestine] question, the issue of right, land, people, and their right on their national soil. If we did not succeed, this does not mean that this is because we did not try seriously and sincerely. The situation has reached a point where I hope there will be cooperation, not coordination. We will handle every case on merit. We will welcome the brothers when they visit this country, which is their country, to discuss any issue they would like raise. We are fully ready and responsive, and we will support them with all available means. However, how can we talk about coordination while it does not exist. If it exists, we will say that it does exist, and we welcome this. This coordination has thus far been part of wishes. It has lived in our hearts and consciences, but it has not materialized.

[Habib] Following talk of an integration plan with Syria, a development took place on the Jordanian-Israeli march, the idea of integration retreated, and the Syrian delegation's visit [to Jordan] was canceled. What are the prospects of the Jordanian-Syrian cooperation? Away from public statements, how does the Syrian leadership view the developments that took place on the Jordanian-Israeli track?

[Husayn] Perhaps this question should be addressed to the Syrian leadership in this regard. We respect ourselves and respect our brothers. I believe they expect us to respect our decision as we respect their decision. We are concerned about this relationship, which is a special and long-standing relationship. My relationship with brother President Hafiz al-Asad is a long-standing one from the time we began shouldering our responsibilities. We have always dealt with each other with honor, faithfulness, and sincerity in all situations. I believe that his feelings toward me are like mine toward him, a feeling of appreciation, as well as credibility. We differed a great deal on many positions, but we maintained our ties. I believe that within a short period of time these relations will return and the contacts, God willing, will continue. We will speak about everything frankly and clearly in the service of common interests.

Regarding integration, we hope that everybody will walk on the road toward integration. Of course, we welcome integration with Syria, in particular. If our brothers prefer to postpone the talks regarding integration, even though the situation revealed that there was genuine cooperation in the various fields over the long march, this is be up to them. When they adopt another stand vis-a-vis integration, or when they adopt more steps toward integration, we will welcome this and always seek to achieve it.

[Habib] Your Majesty, you were the first to call for a comprehensive peace. Now that you have made good progress in this direction, do you expect an imminent move on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks? And do you support the idea of involving Iraq in the multilateral talks?

[Husayn] I hope that steps will continue toward achieving a just and comprehensive peace. I believe that on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israel tracks there is a commitment and a desire to achieve progress. I hope that many things will be achieved during the coming period.

Regarding Iraq, all I hope is that this situation and its causes will end in Iraq, which is a sisterly country and which is important to all of us in this part of the world. This situation has isolated Iraq and caused its people long suffering. We all feel for the Iraqi people and with the difficulties they are facing. We believe that this long darkness will come to an end soon, God willing.

[Habib] Your Majesty, in light of your long experience in this region, what is your opinion regarding the developments in Algeria?

[Husayn] I cannot comment on this issue. However, I can say that we believe that the line we are following here is sound in terms of concentrating on people, their importance, their rights, and on respecting their opinions. If we look at the recent developments in Jordan we will find that they are not linked with a person or with a group of people, but represent the opinion of the overwhelming majority of people and their trends. I believe the time will come, God willing, in which shura, democracy, and political pluralism, and respect for human rights will become clear features in Arab existence as a whole, and in the Arab world. Then, matters will be settled, peace of mind will prevail, and solidarity will be achieved. We will be able to reach many things which were impossible in the past.

[Habib] How would you characterize Jordan's foreign ties, particular with Saudi Arabia?

[Husayn] I wish relations were ideal, and there's no reason why they shouldn't be. However, this is not up to us. A single step made on the road of understanding, removal of doubts, and confidence-building will be met with several steps on our part.

[Habib] Your Majesty, with respect to Yemen, what role do you envisage for Jordan to step up unity now that the guns are silent. Are you planning a visit there?

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[Husayn] Not for the moment. However, with the closing of a painful chapter, we hope to see a repeat of the big gathering that we convened for our Yemeni kinsfolk in Amman that grouped all schools of thought and the components of the Yemeni body politic. It was obvious then that all the Yemeni factions were united on the notion of unity. Thankfully, the unity has survived and flourished. We hope the future will see all wounds heal and a united Yemen begin a new era under which the country can fulfil its ambitions and hopes under a democratic and pluralistic system of government. Yemen has the manpower and material resources and geographic location that it takes. We will extend every possible support to make this happen. Our brothers are welcome to any Jordanian assistance or expertise to shorten the distance.

[Habib] Your Majesty, you are reported to be planning visits to Germany and France. What do you hope to achieve from these trips, and are you contemplating other European visits, especially to countries to which Jordan is indebted?

[Husayn] My visits to Germany and France have a special significance, given that we maintain special relations in which I take pride. There is real cooperation and our relations are on a friendly footing. There are many reasons why we should work to advance these ties still further. This holds true for our friends throughout Europe. As for the timing, this is subject to circumstances. It is hoped our friends around the world will give a boost to the efforts to begin a new chapter in this region with a view to bettering the economic lot of the communities of the region. I hope they will be partners in a new era quite unlike that which has prevailed before.

[Habib] For the first time and after years of struggle, your majesty, we are living in a state of peace while you are in power. What are your feelings at this stage?

[Husayn] Peace is a precious and dear objective. I cannot say that the accomplishments I made and the services I offered were mine alone. Throughout this long journey, these have been the accomplishments of all Jordanians. My pride in this life is that I am part of them and for them.

No doubt, the fact that we are on the threshold of this new stage is cause for self-satisfaction, peace of mind, and a clear conscience. I have wondered for years what we will leave behind for the people we love and to whom we belong. Will we leave them more torture, more worry, more pain, and more suffering or an opportunity to live a decent life on their land and to practice their right to self-determination and to achieve their aspirations, goals, and objectives within the framework of shura, democracy, political pluralism, and respect for human rights?

Jordanians can hold their heads high and will bow only to Almighty God. I would be happy if Almighty God granted this human being success in serving his kinsfolk and loved ones in achieving the big objective of ending the state of darkness we have lived in for years or throughout our life and of beginning a new dawn that is promising to all. We do not fear peace.

What we achieved on this land was made with limited capabilities. We are absolutely confident that we will achieve a lot if peace is realized. God willing, peace will be realized for us and for all. I am happy and can say, with a clear conscience, that I did the impossible under all circumstances. I confronted all difficulties and obstacles. Praise be to God for what has been achieved. We have great hopes in God that the march will continue.

[Habib] Your Majesty, to end this interview, can you reassure our listeners about your health?

[Husayn] Praise be to God. Praise be to God. Everything is fine. Praise be to God.

[Habib] Thank you Your Majesty the King.

[Husayn] Thank you.

Information Minister Views Talks With Israel

NC1808071094 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Telephone interview with Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani, in Amman, by Fawzi al-Jundi, in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[Text] [Al-Jundi] Dr. al-'Anani, welcome to the Voice of the Arabs.

[Al-'Anani] Thank you.

[Al-Jundi] Could you tell us the results of the Jordanian-Israeli negotiations thus far?

[Al-'Anani] Many subjects are being discussed as part of the negotiations but the two most important points Jordan is focusing on are the border demarcation and water. As you know, Jordan has fair shares in the al-Yarmuk and Jordan Rivers. To some extent an agreement has been reached on Jordan's share in the al-Yarmuk River but talks continue on the quantity of water that Jordan should get from the Jordan River. Jordan, from where the river got its name, gets no water from this river right now. Israel takes all the water from this river and conveys it to the Tiberias Lake and to Israel itself. This issue is still under discussion. As for the border, a work plan has been agreed upon; it includes drawing maps at some locations. But Jordan expects Israel to make a goodwill gesture by pulling back the barbed wire—brought forward nearer the Jordanian border after 1970—to what it was pre-1967. This issue is still being debated inside Israel. But technical work by the teams involved seems to be faring well. As for tourism, the Jordanian and Israeli tourism ministers met yesterday and agreed to organize things for tourists crossing at the recently opened crossing point between

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al-'Aqabah and Eilat. They also discussed cooperation in tourism in the era of peace. Plans in this regard will be made on the regional level. A discussion of this subject cannot be confined to Jordan and Israel alone; other parties, such as the Palestinians and the Egyptians, should be involved in this issue so that tourist packages for the entire region, not just one or two countries, may be arranged.

[Al-Jundi] Could we say that these economic measures on the Jordanian-Israeli negotiating track constitute a prelude to an exchange of ambassadors and the signing of a peace treaty soon between Amman and Tel Aviv?

[Al-'Anani] No, no. It is too early to raise this subject, which is not foremost on Jordan's mind at the moment. What concerns us now is to finalize the subjects on the Jordanian agenda. Once it is complete we will see what should be done next. But jumping ahead of time and putting the cart before the horse is not on our mind now.

[Al-Jundi] The talks have moved to an Israeli hotel on the Dead Sea. As you have just said, a meeting was held between the Jordanian and Israeli tourism ministers. What do these meetings mean, considering the fact that Jordan is still negotiating with Israel?

[Al-'Anani] All that we are seeing now is part of the negotiation process. The transfer of the venue of the talks from Washington to the region meant that the two sides would have to meet once on the Jordanian side of the borders and once on the other side. Meetings among officials are held on a very selective basis with a view to serving the interests of the negotiations. They are not mere public relations acts. We want to give the negotiations the attention they deserve and not stop at formalities. Formalities would be important if they meant jumping ahead of events or discussing issues not on the agenda of negotiations. But if they are part of the negotiation process and improve the negotiating position, then we will not give much consideration to these formalities or blow them out of proportion.

[Al-Jundi] Jordan has previously stated that settling the Palestinian-Israeli differences was a step toward settling the differences between Israel and the other Arab states; that is, Syria and Lebanon.

[Al-'Anani] Naturally we still hold the same position. We believe in the need for peace to be comprehensive. We also believe that the Jordanian-Israeli track must define principles for negotiations based on the overall framework of negotiations; that is, Security Council Resolutions 242, which calls for an exchange of the occupied land for peace. If this is achieved on the Jordanian track, it should serve as an incentive for progress under the same principles on the other Arab tracks, whether in Palestine, Syria, or Lebanon.

[Al-Jundi] Regarding Jerusalem and the upcoming summit between Palestinian President 'Arafat and Jordanian King Husayn, the Jordanian side differentiates between the political and religious jurisdiction over the holy city. Do you believe that the upcoming 'Arafat-Husayn summit could end the recent controversy over Jerusalem?

[Al-'Anani] We do not believe there are differences between the Jordanian and Palestinian positions over this matter. It is unfortunate that the two sides have not met face to face to discuss these subjects. What should have happened from the start is that any Arab party that had a query requiring clarification from another Arab party should have directly contacted the second party. We hope that the direct contacts will clarify the picture. This is because I have noticed, for instance, that some statements spoke of the Washington Declaration as if it were about Jerusalem. The Washington Declaration did not talk about Jerusalem, but about the Islamic sacred sites in Jerusalem. Thus, I believe that we need a careful reading of events and we need to give each other the chance to understand each other's position. It is unreasonable to see the lines of communications between the Palestinian and Israeli sides or the Jordanian and Israeli sides open while those between the Jordanian and Palestinian lines are not the same. These matters could be easily clarified and there is absolutely no need for misjudgment. The Jordanian position, I believe, has brought progress to the issue of Jerusalem, and the PLO could find in that position elements to consolidate, not weaken, its own position.

[Al-Jundi] We thank our guest, Jordanian Information Minister Dr. Jawad al-'Anani.

[Al-'Anani] You are welcome.

Journalists Group Warns Against 'Normalization'

JN1808084994 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 25

[Text] Amman—The Journalists Association Council held a two-day session under Journalists Association President Sulayman al-Qudah. The session, which was attended by all Council members, discussed the peace talks between the Arab parties and Israel against the backdrop of current Arab circumstances. A statement issued by the Association Council says:

The Council discussed this important and sensitive issue. Based on its full awareness of the special role played by the media and journalists, and of the important role played by this profession in general, the Association Council announces and stresses to all colleagues the Association's firm position on the entire issue of occupation, a position which advocates the liberation of all occupied Arab territories.

The Association has been abiding by, and continues to abide by all laws and measures related to the boycott of the Israeli enemy. Therefore, the Association's position remains unchanged on the issue of normalization with the occupation authorities. It warns the colleague journalists against establishing any form of normalization, dealings, and bilateral cooperation until the liberation of

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all occupied Arab territories and the return of rights to their rightful owners and the achievement of the comprehensive and just peace.

The Association, however, fully realizes the duties and tasks which the colleagues have to carry out in order to fulfill the mission of the profession. The Association Council wishes also to express its understanding of the fact that some journalists are fulfilling the tasks of the profession by covering declared conferences, meetings, and official events.

Based on this concern, the Council urges the colleague journalists to respect the valid laws and instructions which forbid dealing with the occupation authorities and to abide by the Journalist Association Council's instructions and decisions in this regard.

Country Said Not Affected by Iraqi Ban on Goods

JN1808120094 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 18 Aug 94 p 25

[Report by 'Isam Qadamani]

[Excerpt] Amman—A responsible source at the Trade and Industry Ministry has played down the effect on Jordanian industrial and commercial sectors of the Iraqi Government's decision to ban the import, exhibition, and circulation of 91 commodities as of 1 August this year.

The source told AL-RA'Y yesterday that the Jordanian public and private commercial sector will not be affected very much by this decision because Iraq exempted the contracts signed with the Jordanian public and private sectors from it. The source stressed that these contracts will continue to be valid and will not be covered by the ban.

The source stressed that Jordan was not meant to be the casualty of this decision, which aims at regulating the Iraqi priorities in purchasing and imports in a manner that agrees with the Iraqi local production and to ease the increasing difficulties experienced by the Iraqi economy because of the blockade that was imposed in 1990.

The Jordanian commercial sector expressed concern over the Iraqi decision and noted that there will be major losses because of that decision, especially since there are hundreds of contracts between Jordanian merchants and official and non-official Iraqi parties.

Informed sources at the Jordanian Exporters Association have said that the association is paying the proper attention to the decision and is currently holding contacts and making studies to ensure that the private Jordanian commercial sector is not covered by the decision and to find out the fate of the contracts that were signed with Iraq.

Iraq the day before yesterday issued a decision banning the import, exhibition, and circulation of 91 commodities regardless of their origin. [passage omitted]

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Buwayz on Christopher's Mission, Peace Process

NC1708170694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has said that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher's mission focused on two fundamental points. The first was the assurance that Syria will not be isolated and the second was the formulation of some points pertaining to the Syrian-Israeli track and to the principle of Israel's withdrawal from the Golan.

In an interview with the program "60 Minutes" that will be transmitted by Tele-Liban tonight, Buwayz denied that he had told the cabinet that an agreement on the Syrian-Israeli track might be reached by December 1994, because, he added, there remain some major points that could sweep aside the principle if they are not clearly resolved.

The minister went on to say that if the link between the Lebanese and Syrian tracks is seen as the link between the implementation of Resolution 425 and other resolutions, this can only be true in so far as this resolution is linked to the achievement of comprehensive peace.

He stressed that Lebanon is part of the Arab decision and any talk about restricting Lebanon's role or excluding it from the negotiations is mere oneupmanship.

Minister Opposes Return of Palestinians to Camps

NC1808082394 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Information Minister Michel Samahah has opposed the return of the Palestinians to Tall Za'tar, al-Dubayyah, and Mukhayyam Jisr al-Basha. He said the Palestine issue can only be resolved when the Palestinian people's rights to their own land are restored.

In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon, he referred to an official source at the Refugee Ministry who took the liberty of violating the al-Ta'if Agreement and asked who he was. Samahah said:

[Begin Samahah recording] I do not know who the responsible source is who allows himself to overstep the al-Ta'if Agreement. The al-Ta'if Agreement's text was very clear: Return is restricted to the Lebanese people's return to the places from where they were displaced. Here the text is very clear, as clear as the settlement text. The Lebanese agreed within the framework of national reconciliation in al-Ta'if that there would be no resettlement [of the Palestinian people] out of consideration for the Palestinian people's national identity, especially as they have set up a new suburb in the area to which they may return if they wish. They must return to it.

We mind a great deal if the al-Ta'if Agreement is not implemented regarding the return of the Lebanese first to the places from where they were displaced. The al-Ta'if Agreement clearly stipulated that the return of displaced people applies to the Lebanese people only. A responsible source, no matter what side he may be from, cannot release reports about this subject as a test balloon in Lebanese political and national society in such a sly manner. I hope the statement the source made is not correct.

If this proposal is serious, we oppose it totally, because we are people who want to resolve the Palestine issue within the framework of the comprehensive solution over which consultations are taking place now. We want this issue to be resolved by opening the door to return for the Palestinians to regain their rights on their land and their identity over their land. Whoever stays behind will be welcomed with open arms as Arab nationals residing on Lebanese territory. Lebanese law will apply to them as it applies to everyone else. There is no scope for discussing the return of the Palestinians to Tall Za'tar, al-Nabatiyah, or any other place. This issue was decided upon by the Lebanese the day they agreed upon the contents of the al-Ta'if Agreement.

I reject any talk about settlement. The Lebanese have agreed on this. There is no international, regional, or local source that could circumvent the agreement reached by the Lebanese over such issues. No decision has been made by the Lebanese state or, legislatively, by the Chamber of Deputies on this issue. And this issue has not been proposed to the executive authority in the Council of Ministers. No one has the right to act on it in such a manner. [end recording]

Israeli Forces, 'Resistance' Carry Out Activities

Israelis Shell, Overfly Towns

NC1808071694 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0430 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] After a night of Israeli attacks on numerous areas in the south and western al-Biqa', Israeli military overflights, and the firing of flares, extreme tension still prevails along the contact line with the occupied areas while various Israeli artillery shells have fallen on the region. The NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondent in Tyre reported the following a short time ago:

At 0510 this morning the resistance men attacked the al-Bayyadah post with machine guns and artillery shells. A clash ensued between the men at the post and the attackers, which continued for around 20 minutes. The occupation forces used all kinds of weapons in the attack, including tank artillery. Immediately afterward the occupation forces heated up the situation again and restored tension throughout the western sector. They shelled the villages of al- Hinniyah, al-'Izziyah, al-Mansuri, and al-Qulaylah as well as gardens around these villages using 105-mm, 120-mm, and 155-mm artillery shells.

At 0605 this morning the Israeli shelling was renewed ferociously on the towns of al-Mansuri, al-Qulaylah, and

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al-Hinniyah. The shelling was accompanied by raking operations using 12.7-mm artillery on the outskirts of al-Mansuri and the surrounding valleys.

'Resistance' Attacks Israeli Posts

NC1808074794 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] The Islamic Resistance at dawn today demonstrated a new heroic stance against the usurping Zionists, teaching them a bitter lesson. Our correspondent in Tyre reported that at 0515 this morning the Islamic Resistance shelled the occupation army's settlements at al-Radar in the western sector. It hit the post directly and fire was seen rising from it. Enemy positions in al-Hardawn, al-Bayyadah, and Tayr Harfa shelled the outskirts of al-'Izziyah, Zibqin, and al-Mansuri using 82-mm and 120-mm artillery shells.

In light of the continuing Israeli attacks on the south and the siege imposed on Yuhmur, the Islamic Resistance yesterday declared its responsibility for blowing up an explosive device under a T-54 Lahdist tank on the road to Jazzin. The tank was burned out after it turned over. The members of its crew were hurt.

Blast Injures Israelis; Towns Shelled

NC1808135494 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1300 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Israeli self-propelled artillery deployed on the al-Bayyadah hills bombarded the township of Buyut al-Sayyid this afternoon. The Israelis also fired 20 120-mm shells at al-'Izziyah and the outskirts of al-Hinniyah from their positions in al-Hamra', al-Bayyadah, and Tayr Harfa.

Two Israeli occupation troops were injured by an explosive device that resistance fighters detonated on the road to al-Naqurah. After the explosion, the occupation forces searched the area and closed the road leading to al-Naqurah via Jisr al-Hamra', thus preventing UN Interim Force in Lebanon personnel from travelling from their headquarters to the rest of their operational area.

Israelis Kill 'Saboteurs'

NC1808140894 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1330 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] According to our military correspondent, two saboteurs were killed in a clash with security forces in the al-Naqurah area. Shortly before the clash occurred, an explosive device was detonated under an Israeli army patrol. During the search operation, Israeli troops clashed with the saboteurs, killing two of them.

The detonation of the explosive device slightly injured two Israeli soldiers.

Two Casualties in 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp Clash

NC1808101594 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0930 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] An armed clash took place last night in the 'Ayn al- Hilwah camp leading to the death of Ayman Hammud and the injury of an unidentified person. Security sources in Sidon said that before the clash, a hand grenade was thrown at the office of Abu-Husayn Farhud, the official responsible for Fatah intelligence in the camp. Losses were restricted to material damage.

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Afghanistan

President Rabbani Message for Independence Day

LD1708205894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Message by President Borhanoddin Rabbani for the 18 August anniversary of Prophet Mohammad's birth and Afghanistan's independence day; read by Abdol Aziz Morad, head of the Press Office and presidential spokesman—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted: Koranic verse]

Dear Compatriots, Sisters, and Brothers: Peace and blessing of God be upon you. [passage omitted]

From the time this Islamic system was established, the enemies embarked on various conspiracies and provocations against our people and against the national and the Islamic sovereignty. These conspiracies and provocations were the cause of the creation of obstacles to serve the people, to reduce the pains, and to creat such an atmosphere, so that our Muslim society became able to mvoe ahead to stability and progress with firm steps. [sentence as heard]

Our courageous compatriots can remember that whenever conditions began to improve and the situation was about to normalize as result of the work and peace-seeking efforts of the Islamic government, military provocations and disrupting operations were launched by the monopolizing groups, selfish and alien agents, which created fresh pains for our people. The disrupting efforts are taking place in Afghanistan against the will and determination of the whole nation. [sentence indistinct] These efforts are primarily personal, and the nation of Afghanistan, as a whole, is confronting them.

A warning should be given again to those who, by ignoring the norms and standards in international relations, coexistence, and understanding, are trying to interfere in the internal affairs of proud Afghanistan, and thus want to creat obstacles to the consolidation of unity and solidarity of the fraternal people living in this country. They should remember the past experiences and the historical facts: The people of Afghanistan have never, under any circumstances and conditions, accepted foreign interference. In such a situation the people as a whole, of all nationalities, tribes, and clans, as a united force and as an iron fist, have confronted such elements and interventionist (?factors) and taught a [word indistinct] lesson to the aggressors which has been registered in the history books forever.

[Words indistinct] The brave sons of this land with courage and unprecedented bravery, decisively and fearlessly, will teach the interventionist and their sold-out agents such a lesson that they can never forget.

Dear compatriots, the Islamic State of Afghanistan, in following its peace-seeking policy, and, as before, that is to say, during the past two years and so many months, have been displaying many times [words indistinct] to end the fighting and to restore a nationwide and durable peace. The Islamic state is still resolutely and seriously hoping that our people can come out of the present unstable and unsatisfactory situation as soon as possible. It came into being as a result of the intervention by others and disrupting activities by the selfish and [word indistinct] elements, so that firm steps can be taken for the stability and consolidation of the situation. We assure our noble people that the present situation will improve in the near future. Because of this we have not only decisively supported every step that has been taken for the restoration of peace in our country but we have also sincerely and honestly expressed our readiness to cooperate with every effort to this end.

The Islamic state honors and respects the peace-seeking efforts of all peace delegations and are waiting for their (success) and actual gains. The state will put at their disposal every possible means and facilities available, so that the dreadful monster of clashes and fighting leaves our country forever, and our people who deserve help and assistance can live in a secure atmosphere free of threats and force.

The Islamic State of Afghanistan respects, and with appreciation recalls the peace-seeking efforts by the United Nations and its special envoy his excellency Mahmud Mestiri. We completely endorse and express support for the recent UN Security Council's resolution. We hope that these efforts are coordinated and organized to such a level that fighting and disputes will be eliminated in accordance with the wish and will of our Muslim people. [passage omitted]

Dear compatriots, the Islamic State of Afghanistan is aware of the fact that you Muslim, hardworking, and brave people of the country have suffered much pain and hardship during the 14 years of the myth-making jihad of the brave and gallant nation of Afghanistan. Your fortitude, your patience and endurance, your bravery and self-sacrifice have been the main factor of the jihad's victory. Under the Islamic regime your pain and hardship should have been healed. Such conditions should have been created for you to live in certainty and tranquillity. The Islamic regime should have been a time of peace and calm, without threat and worry. Unfortunately, some factors and forces brought about such incidents that not only were those hopes not completely realized but also new pains and hardships have been caused.

Within its capability, the Islamic state has tried to reduce the intensity of those pains so that our brave and afflicted people do not feel themselves alone in enduring all those problems. Our compatriots know very well that despite the flexibility and forbearance that the Islamic state has demonstrated to put an end to war and to

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ensure peace, the opposition has not ceased fighting. We declared that we are not a candidate for the transitional period, and that power should be transferred to an authoritative source. But the warmongers did not give a positive response. They think that the continuation of war will be in their interest while the falsehood of such a thought has been proved in practice.

[Words indistinct] to mark the auspicious birthday of the master of the Universe [prophet Mohammad], which is followed by the country's independence day, and to respect this national and historic day, and to provide suitable conditions for the intensification of peace activities—and the positive response, this year, to the request of the representative of the UN secretary general for Afghanistan—the Islamic state of Afghanistan is ready for the implementation and the observation of a ceasefire. We are of the opinion that in order to obtain satisfactory results from the announcement of a ceasefire, it will be better for a supervising mission to supervise and guarantee its implementation.

With clarity and emphasis, it should be expressed that the nation of Afghanistan, during the course of its proud history, full of ups and downs, it has always overcome its problems and has intelligently and bravely preserved its national unity and identity. The brilliant acts of our country's brave sons from all tribes and nationalities of this land clearly attest that the people of Afghanistan have never allowed foreign factors and their anonymous [word indistinct] to create a gap and differences among our people, and to prepare the ground for their personal and group interests. As during the jihad years against the aggressor, the meaningful and valuable word of mojahed was the identifying mark of every national fighter in which the issue of color and race, language and region, and religion has not been raised but all stood in one rank under the splendid banner of Islam and under the name of mojahed until they force the cunning and selfish enemy to kneel down, certainly during the sovereignty of the Islamic regime—not only do they abort the mad efforts of the opportunists by the preservation of their unity and solidarity but they also eliminate problems by the consolidation of their unity, which will put the country on the course of development, stability, and strength. The Islamic State of Afghanistan wants peaceful coexistence and mutual trust among all countries. We respect the independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of countries and put emphasis on the observation of the international principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of others. The Islamic Afghanistan attaches great value to the further consolidation of our friendly relations with neighborly countries, especially the host nations at the time of jihad, such as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Saudi Arabia, and we want friendly and good relations with newly independent republics of Central Asia. Our expectation is that the international community, the communities and states that selflessly assisted the people of Afghanistan against foreign aggressors during the heroic war of our nation, will now—in the time of the country's reconstruction and [word indistinct] of our people—selflessly help our people with the reconstruction of our country. Once again I congratulate you dear compatriots, anywhere you live, on the auspicious birthday of the master of the universe, Hazrat Mohammad Mostafa, peace be upon him, the great prophet of Islam, and on the independence day of the country. I wish from God with my hands extended beseechingly, and for prayers to enable our faithful, afflicted, and brave nation to overcome the hardships and problems, and to ensure and consolidate peace and stability in our country, and that our people will elevate their country to the peak of pride and splendor with the utmost confidence in the future and in an atmosphere imbued with love and cordiality. Having said these words, I ask God for forgiveness for you and myself, and indeed, He is forgiving and merciful.

[Signed] Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan

Acting Prime Minister Chairs Cabinet Meeting

LD1708224094 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The High Council of Ministers held a meeting today, chaired by esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, minister of housing and city planning and acting prime minister. At the meeting, various issues on the agenda were discussed and the necessary decisions made.

The press department of the Prime Minister's Office told BAKHTAR that certain previous decisions of the High Council of Ministers and a memorandum of the national economy and reconstruction office of the Presidency on the budget for 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994], which had been endorsed by the president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, were read at this meeting. The participants discussed various topics relating to these. They decided that the ministries and enterprises should plan and take specific concrete measures in their own areas for the realization of the decisions and the memorandum of the national economic and reconstruction office of the Presidency, and then report to the Prime Minister's Office on the results of their action.

The ministries and departments having agencies abroad should hand over the plan of their structure to the High Council of Ministers for consideration. The economic consultative board, in consultation with [word indistinct] ministries and the relevant enterprises, should effectively and determinedly attract the assistance and cooperation of friendly countries and international organizations in the social, economic, and cultural areas.

In order to meet the need of the country's fruitgrowers, the participants in the meeting, in response to a proposal by esteemed Engineer Ahmad Shah Ahmadzai, decided that the Ministries of [word indistinct] Foreign Affairs and Civil Aviation and Tourism should carry out market

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research abroad for the sale of fruit and provide the necessary facilities for the transport and sale of fruit abroad. [passage indistict]

The session also agreed to the planned visit of four cultural figures to the Ferdowsi festival which is going to be held in Tajikistan.

Government Captures Lolak District, Fariab Province

LD1708183894 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Lolak District in Fariab Province was conquered in a successful operation. An Armed Forces' source told a military correspondent of the BAKHTAR Information Agency that the mojahedin and forces of the Islamic army succeeded in completely clearing the Dostum-Golboddin militia Lolak District and its 25 villages in an operation that started three days ago.

During the course of clearing up Lolak District in Fariab Province of the Dostum-Golboddin militia, 21 militiamen were killed and 35 others were injured. Similarly, 50 criminal militia have been taken prisoner by the mojahedin and the Islamic army forces. During that successful operation, 300 pieces of light and heavy weapons along with a large quantity of ammunition and two food depots have been taken as booty by the mojahedin. During the operation several ammunition depots of the militia were set ablaze, and Lolak District was conquered.

The following jihadi commanders: Mahmud, Arbab Gholam Sakhi, Amirbeg, Haji Nasrollah, Adam Khan, Sakhi Khan, 'Abdol Qader, Abdol Karim, Abdol Majid, and Miralam participated in the operation. The operation was conducted under the command of Mawlawi Sayd Mohammad Yusuf, Dr, Qadir Khan, Commander 'Abdol Majid, Rayis Najibollah, and Commander 'Ata Mohammad. It is of great value for the mojahedin and the forces of the Islamic army in the north, and is another crushing blow to the head of the dying militia in the northern provinces of the country.

Rocket Attack on Kabul Wounds 32 People

LD1708162494 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Kabul's residential areas were again the target of the Golboddin-Dostum militia's heavy rockets today. A source in the General Command of Kabul Garrison told a BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY military correspondent that 52 rockets were used. According to reports obtained from Kabul hospitals, 32 people were wounded and taken into treatment. In addition, public utility installations and the homes of a number of the Kabul residents were damaged.

Report on Outbreak of Cholera in Kabul Denied

LD1708213194 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Excerpt] The Ministry of Public Health of Afghanistan said that the report on a cholera outbreak in Kabul city is unfounded.

The correspondent of the BAKHTAR Information Agency reported that BBC Radio put out a news item last night alleging that the cholera outbreak in Kabul city has so far killed 25 children. In an interview, Dr. Sadroddin Sahar, acting minister of public health, dismissed this report and said:

[Announcer-read] This report is totally unfounded and so far no cholera incident has been noticed in any of Kabul city's hospitals. [passage omitted]

India

Defense Secretary Views Ties With Southeast Asia

BK1808084094 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES in English 17 Aug 94 p 7

[Report by Ravi Velloor in New Delhi]

[Text] India believes that a better understanding of its security concerns from littoral neighbours is contributing to a significant march in defence ties with countries in South-east Asia.

Indian Defence Secretary K.A. Nambiar told THE STRAITS TIMES: "Our defence relationship with South-east Asia has been mostly in the area of training and this linkage is growing.

"We have resumed joint naval exercise and we also expect growing co-operation in the defence industry."

The defence portfolio is held by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao. Mr Nambiar is the top civilian official in the ministry.

Earlier this year, the Singapore and Indian navies conducted joint exercises off the Andaman Islands, the first time India used a submarine in training with a foreign navy.

Defence officials monitoring the exercise told THE STRAITS TIMES that they were "impressed" with the performance of the men of the Republic of Singapore Navy. Said a senior military official: "They are bunch of tough fellows. Very good seamen. Nobody can take them for granted."

India has also held training exercise with the Indonesian and Malaysian navies and recently agreed to service MiG-29 fighter aircraft being purchased by the Royal Malaysian Air Force. Officials indicated that more defence tie-ups with the two nations could be in the offing.

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Said Air Commodore (retired) Jasjit Singh, director of the government-funded Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA): "A lot of other areas have not been explored. We have colossal infra-structure.

"It's time to start sharing and not worry about whether particular equipment is of Russian origin or American—as the MiG- 29 deal has shown."

He said that in a world in which defence budgets were shrinking, there was a need for greater co-operation.

"South-east Asia is one region where there are no missiles trained on us," he added.

"Similarly, we are not a threat to any of them. Automatically, this has created opportunities for greater self-reliance in the region through a process of co-operation."

The defence strategist said misgiving about India's blue-water ambitions were thing of the past. India had to protect the Andaman Islands, 1,400 km from the main land.

"Till the late 1980s many maritime boundaries had not been settled. The Falkland crisis had created concerns about island territories," he explained.

According to Defence Secretary Nambiar, India had a twin approach to its sea power. He said: "Increase co-operation and confidence- building with maritime neighbours as well as retain adequate defence capabilities. It is a balanced approach."

He said this had shown results. "The naval environment in our security zone has improved substantially and there is better understanding of our security concerns by our littoral neighbours," he pointed out.

"Asia's security is best guaranteed by Asian nations themselves through self-reliance and co-operation. Improved political relations and increased transparency in military postures would be necessary and provide the base for confidence-building," he added.

On India's own defence preparedness, Mr Nambiar said the Soviet collapse, which had cut off the supply of critical spare parts for the defence forces, had proved to be a mixed blessing.

While there were some shortages in 1990-91, India's domestic capabilities had risen to cushion the impact.

"The disruption gave a boost to increasing indigenisation. At the same time the spares pipeline from the former Soviet states is improving. Today we have fully overcome all problems on spares," he said.

Lao Foreign Minister Meets With Singh, Rao

BK1808042594 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] India and Laos are to boost economic and technical cooperation. A memorandum of understanding was signed in New Delhi yesterday by the external affairs minister, Mr. Dinesh Singh, and his Laos counterpart, Mr. Somsavat Lengsavat. Earlier, the two sides had detailed discussions on bilateral and international matters.

Mr. Somsavat Lengsavat later called on the prime minister. During the meeting, Mr. Rao said there is great scope for mutual cooperation between the two countries as both economies are liberalized. He felt that the private sector interaction between India and Laos could be of mutual benefit.

Opposition's Boycott of Parliament Ends

BK1708142094 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The opposition boycott of Parliament has ended following an agreement with the government on the Action Taken Report [ATR]. The government will submit a revised and modified report to the Parliament at the earliest possible. It will be submitted after reconsidering the objections raised by the opposition and the points on which action had to be taken partially or not taken. [sentence as heard] The announcement was made amid thumping of desks by members by the speaker, Mr. Shivraj Patil, in the Lok Sabha and the chairman, Mr.K.R. Narayanan, in the Rajya Sabha. The opposition members, who returned to the house after three weeks of boycott, were greeted by the treasury benches. Mr. Narayanan also announced that he has not taken note of the resignations of the opposition members from parliamentary committees.

The happy end came sharp at 1430 [0900 GMT] with the presiding officers of the two houses simultaneously announcing the breakthrough. They congratulated all those who contributed to end the impasse amicably. The Rajya Sabha chairman remarked that through this agreement we have achieved what is ideal in a parliamentary system. The Lok Sabha speaker said in a parliamentary system dissents and differences of opinion are always expressed in different forms, but without hurting the system. The prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, appreciated the role played by the chair.

Our parliamentary correspondent reports that the deadlock was resolved following a meeting between the presiding officers and representatives of the government and the opposition yesterday. The opposition parties formally approved the decision at the meeting of their parliamentary parties this morning.

The opposition leaders have expressed satisfaction over the agreement. The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Jaswant Singh, denied a climb down on the part of the opposition. He said the government could have acted in a manner as they did now at least 10 days back.

The Janata Dal leaders—Mr. S. Jaipal Reddy, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, and Mr. Sharad Yadav maintained that the agreement was not a compromise formula.

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The parliamentary affairs minister, Mr. V.C. Shukla, said that today's agreement on the ATR is fair and practical. Briefing newspersons in New Delhi, he said the government and the opposition both are keen to find out the culprit in the securities scam.

Editorial Views U.S. Envoy's Economic Attitudes

BK1208110794 Delhi NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 10 Aug 94 p 6

[Editorial: "What Mr. Wisner Must Do"]

[Text] The U.S. dream of a world order does not allow for the importance of anything else, but U.S. dreams. Although many countries in the present unipolar world are adopting themselves to suit American ways, it is high time the United States also indulged in a bit of introspection and self-education. The new U.S. ambassador to India, Mr. Frank G. Wisner, did amend his earlier conceptions in his first public appearance; however, he did not refrain from showing that other countries will have to follow the economic policies laid down by his country. Before coming to India, he had been quite severe in his unwanted and equally uncalled for criticism of India, which was made with unconcealed vehemence. It was widely believed that Mr. Wisner favored Pakistan since he had been a high-ranking official in the defense policy office of the U.S. Department of State, which formulated the proposal to give F-16 planes to Pakistan. Mr. Wisner, however, started an in-depth study of India and her problems when his appointment to India became certain. This affected his prejudices and misconceptions about India. At the same time, the United States must have reassessed India's political and economic strength vis-a-vis her own position. The result of all of this is that Mr. Wisner now is a knowledgeable man favoring India on the issues of Kashmir and regional security balance. He also is expressing his doubt about providing those F-16 planes to Pakistan. On economic issues, however, he is still highly critical of India. In a recent statement, Mr. Wisner advised the Indian Government to begin protecting intellectual property rights, to liberalize financial markets, and to open up the consumer sector and the agriculture sector to the world market. He concluded in a very natural way that the United States will keep our government very busy regarding these issues. The tone and tenor of the language betrays a person who is enamored of speaking through his hat and who refuses to accept even the existence of the "other side." Mr. Wisner, however, also did say that mistrust and suspicion now should be replaced with trust and confidence. In other words, he means that he is quite aware of the basic spirit enshrined in his statements up to now and he also now understands what he has been saying.

If this is the case, how can Mr. Wisner forget that the huge economic system, to which he has been referring repeatedly and urging India to join, also has certain rules and regulations. It cannot just be thrust upon anyone by the force of might. The violent opposition to the Dunkel proposals in our country is a hard reality and Indian society cannot accept their rules and laws under any conditions. It is quite true that the opposition presently is not very vocal, but the tone of the opposition will grow more and more bitter the moment the results of the patent law start hurting society. It would be better if the United States adopts a practical approach on economic issues similar to what she has done in realizing the needs of the Third World regarding regional security requirements.

Iran

Velayati Returns From Central Asia Trip

Comments on Projects

LD1708203894 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1930 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] At the end of his tour of four Central Asian states, the Republic of Azerbaijan, and the autonomous republic of Nakhichevan, Foreign Minister Velayati returned to Tehran this afternoon.

In an interview with our correspondent, he said: During this tour the issue of expanding commercial and trade cooperation as well as cooperation in the fields of oil and gas were reviewed.

Regarding ways and means of implementing a project for the export of Turkmen gas through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Velayati said: During a visit by the Turkmen president to Iran, which will take place at the beginning of Shahrivar [month beginning 23 August], the matter will be finalized. He added: The question of the exporting of oil by Kazakhstan to the Persian Gulf via the Caspian Sea in cooperation with Iran was discussed.

Referring to the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts to establish peace in the region, especially in Tajikistan and Karabakh, Mr. Velayati said: All the Central Asian states support Iran's mediating role and request Iran's mediation in order to resolve the crises in Tajikistan and Karabakh.

Discusses Mediation Efforts

LD1808081494 Tehran IRNA in English 0623 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 18, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati said here Wednesday that Iran along with the Central Asian republics and other interested countries will make efforts for the peaceful settlement of the Tajikistan problem.

Velayati made the remark upon his return here from a 9-day tour of the Central Asian republics which took him to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan.

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He said that the issue of Tajikistan was the most important topic in his talks with senior Central Asian officials including his counterparts.

From Iran's point of view the issue of Tajikistan should be settled through cooperation of regional countries and under the auspices of the United Nations without foreign interference, he said.

Velayati added that the issue of roads linking the republics to the outside world was among other topics he discussed with Central Asian officials.

Regional economic cooperation especially in the framework of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was another subject of Velayati's talks.

Given the Islamic Republic's expertise in the fields of oil and gas, the Central Asian republics called for Iran's cooperation in the said areas especially in the export of their oil and gas, Velayati said.

In Kazakhstan, he said, the two countries finalized the issue of transferring the Kazakh republic's oil and gas through the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea.

On Karabakh dispute and occupation of parts of the Azerbaijan territory by Armenian forces, Velayati said that Iran voiced readiness to take measures together with other countries to establish a just and honorable peace, reach reconciliation and settle the dispute.

He termed his visit to Central Asia as positive and said that Iran's ties with the republics have upgraded rapidly given the common points the republics share with Iran.

Turning to the agreements signed between Iran and the Central Asian republics Velayati said that the contracts have either been materialized or arrangements were under way for their implementastion.

ECO Member States Establish Shipping Company

LD1708190494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] member states have set up a combined shipping company with an initial investment of $10 million. According to the Central News Unit, following the two-day meeting of representatives of the state-owned shipping companies of the ECO member states in Tehran, it was announced in Tehran today that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been designated as the center of the ECO's multinational shipping company.

Mr. Tarjeman, chairman of the board of governors and managing director of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Shipping Lines, during the signing ceremony of the final documents establishing the ECO's shipping company, said: In view of existing capacities and the volume of transportable goods in the ECO region, which has a population of 300 million, and with the support of member states, it is expected that the ECO shipping company will become one of the most significant shipping companies in the region and the world. It is also expected that it will play a positive role in increasing maritime transport capabilities and trade exchanges among ECO member states.

Syrian Ambassador Cited on Peace Talks, Ties

NC1808110194 Tehran SALAM in Persian 6 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Text] Pressures inflicted on the Islamic Republic of Iran by some big Western countries are aimed at overshadowing the compromise process and the Amman-Tel Aviv accord.

Syrian Ambassador in Tehran Ahmad al-Hasan, who was speaking on Thursday [4 August 1994] in an exclusive interview with a SALAM correspondent, added: Naturally, the accusations aimed at Iran on the explosions in London and Buenos Aires are completely baseless. None of these accusations apply to Iran.

The Syrian ambassador in Tehran explained that the objective behind such pressure on the Islamic Republic of Iran is to reduce Iran's opposition to the so-called peace talks in the future.

He also said that among the other objectives of the poisonous propaganda against Iran is to prepare world public opinion for the Zionist regime's future aggression against Lebanon and the Islamic Resistance in that country.

The Syrian ambassador in Tehran praised the principled stances of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the Arab-Israeli talks and said: From the very outset the Islamic Republic of Iran has completely rejected the talks. This policy by Iran has proven to be a trump card in the hands of the opponents of Israel. This is because the Iranian officials are well-aware that Israel's intention has never been one of achieving peace.

Reiterating Syria's stances for a comprehensive and general peace in the region, he said that Jordan's signing of a separate agreement with the Zionists is the result of pressure by Washington on Amman, and he criticized this as a blow inflicted on the united ranks of the Arabs.

He said: Syria has always stated that it is after a respectable and general agreement and that separate peace agreements will not lead to any peace.

The general peace that Syria wants lies in Israel's full withdrawal from the Arab territories and the return of the Arabs' rights to them. He added: It is because of these stands that America has inflicted many pressures in Syria so that it will both accept the negotiation process and also be willing to start separate talks with Israel. However, Syria wants peace to be such that all the demands of the Arabs will be met; and it will continue to remain steadfast on these stands.

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Ahmad al-Hasan went on to add: Syria will never agree with the Zionist regime's withdrawal from Golan without the withdrawal of the Zionist troops from southern Lebanon; and if it had only the liberation of Golan in mind, it would have done so in the 70's in tandem with al-Sadat's talks with the Zionist regime.

Stressing that Syria will continue to support the Hizballah and Islamic Resistance in southern Lebanon, he said that it has been a few years now that pressures are being inflicted on Syria because of Hizballah and Islamic Resistance. But Syria's answer to these pressures has always been based on the principle that the struggle by Hizballah and the Islamic Resistance to end the Zionists' occupation of southern Lebanon is a legitimate and just struggle.

Rejecting rumors circulating in Western circles concerning the payment of compensation by Damascus to the Zionist regime for the Zionist forces' withdrawal from Golan and the dismantling of its security centers from the heights, the Syrian ambassador said: Golan belongs to Syria and no money will be paid to the Zionist regime to withdraw its troops.

In answer to our correspondent's question on the future activities of the Palestinian groups based in Syria, Ahmad al-Hasan said: Syria will continue to support the Damascus-based Palestinian groups' struggles for the liberation of all the Palestinian territories because the Gaza-Jericho Accord has not fully defined the rights of the Palestinians and they have the right to defend their rights.

Commenting on the future of the 6-plus-2 pact [members of the Gulf Cooperation Council, plus Egypt and Syria] Ahmad al-Hasan told our correspondent: Since American efforts have always been based on the principle of preventing regional countries from ensuring regional security themselves, it is trying to weaken the pact and is striving to downgrade its significance and credibility so that in this way it can prove that regional security affairs can only be solved by America. In answer to our correspondent's question on the spiteful propaganda by the West and America which portrays Iran as a threat to regional stability, the Syrian ambassador said: The Americans' propaganda on Iran being a security threat against regional countries is completely baseless because Iran is a country that forms the gravity center of the region. All these allegations are false.

Praising the positive role played by Iran as the largest regional and Persian Gulf littoral country in safeguarding regional security, the Syrian ambassador said: Iran has always tried to establish good relations with regional countries. Syria fully supports the positive role that Iran plays in regional developments.

Border With Iraqi Kurdistan Said Mined

NC1708201094 Paris AFP in English 1619 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Report by Tolle Aram]

[Text] Suleymaniyeh, Iraq, Aug 17 (AFP)—Iran is digging trenches and planting mines along its border with Iraqi Kurdistan in an effort to keep out guerrillas and smugglers, Kurdish officials said Wednesday.

One of the trenches could be seen in the Penjwin area, running one kilometre (0.6 mile) along a river that marks the border.

"Iran started digging the ditch more than a month ago. It is three meters (yards) deep and three meters wide," a Kurdistan Democratic Party official in Penjwin, Hassan Husayni, told AFP.

Iran wants to "prevent fighters crossing" from northern Iraq, he added, naming several opposition groups such as the Iranian Kurdish groups Komala and Democratic Party of Iranian Kurdistan, as well as the People's Mujahedeen.

Tehran accuses the opposition of carrying out "terrorist" attacks on its soil.

The governor of nearby Suleymaniyeh city, Salah Aziz, said he believed that "the main target group are smugglers," who bring from Iran goods in short supply in Iraq, like car tyres, and also subsidised products such as medicine.

Such goods are often exchanged for gold bangles, sold at a low price by middle-class families empoverished by four years of UN sanctions on Iraq, since the invasion of Kuwait.

"It's impossible to stop smugglers. They know a lot of ways to cross the border," Aziz said. The fact that shops in Penjwin are as full as ever proves the point.

Wherever digging a ditch is difficult, Iran plants mines, according to officials in Iraqi Kurdistan, which the Kurds control in defiance of Baghdad.

"Around five people get killed every day by the mines, all of them on the Iranian side of the border," said Ali Celal, a farmer in the border village of Bashmach.

But the mines are not a real deterrent, said a smuggler from the village of Ghoshlan who asked not to be named.

"We just have to be more careful since they've put more mines. Before going out on an expedition, we check our way during the day so as to get through safely at night," he said.

Rafsanjani Chairs Meetings of Oil, Gas Companies

LD1708190294 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The general meetings of the National Oil and Gas Companies were held separately, chaired by President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

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According to a report by the Central News Unit, at the National Oil Company general meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani was briefed on the state and extent of crude oil production at the beginning of the First Five-year Development Plan and an increase of more than 4 million barrels per day at the end of that plan, as well as oil and gas exploration operations, after an integrated balance sheet for the statements of account for the year that started 21 March 1992 was approved. A report was submitted at the meeting on the state of reconstruction at the Abadan refinery, and on its increase of production and storage of oil products, which was praised by the president.

At the National Gas Company general meeting the statements of account for the year starting 21 March 1990 were approved, as was the budget for 1995, amounting to 901 billion rials.

Then the president was briefed on the performance of the National Gas Company, which concerned supplying gas to 28 new cities, laying 4,000 km of gas supply network, installing more than 272,000 supply lines and more than 400,000 gas counters, as well as the use of natural gas by nearly 345,000 housing units in 1994, unprecedented in the companies 25 years of operations. He thanked the employees of the National Gas Company for their efforts.

Privatization of Health Service Planned

LD1708182194 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Excerpt] There is to be a shake-up in the state medical insurance system during the Second Five-Year Plan. Under the new system, starting next year [beginning 21 March 1995], hospitals and clinics will be administered economically and on a self-financing basis.

The official in charge of social affairs of the Plan and Budget Organization announced this in an interview today, and added: The payment of subsidies to hospitals and state-owned clinics for free and partially free treatment has prevented competition between those clinics and hospitals and prevented the full use of their existing capabilities. Therefore, hospitals will become self-funding by charging the people and insurance institutions during the Second Five-Year Plan. Staff salaries and operations costs will come from charges for medical services.

According to the Plan and Budget Organization official, in the second development plan, the social welfare system, which currently covers 46 percent of people, consisting of workers, civil servants and the Armed Forces, will be extended to cover farm workers. The majority of the people born in rural regions will be covered by the state medical insurance, the state's pension plan, and insurance for injury at work.

According to the Central News Unit, during the second development plan, the government will pay the full insurance premium for the underprivileged, which is currently covered by the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee. The government will also pay part of the insurance premium for rural citizens, civil servants, and the low income group in the private sector. [passage omitted]

Basijis To Participate in Nationwide Maneuvers

NC1808075694 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] Hundreds of thousands of Basijis [Mobilization Corps members] will participate in extensive maneuvers today [the anniversary of the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war] to display their readiness to defend the gains of the revolution. In these nationwide maneuvers, over 280,000 Basijis from 741 'Ashura battalions organized by the Resistance Force of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps will carry out urban maneuvers in cities and elsewhere.

In Tehran, 50,000 Basijis will start to gather at the various Basij centers at 1600 so that by participating in the maneuvers they can renew their allegiance to the martyrs of the sacred defense epic and announce their readiness to defend religion, the homeland, and the revolution.

Controversy on Qazvin Upgrade to Province Viewed

NC1708115394 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Aug 94 p 2

[Commentary by 'Abbas Salimi-Namin: "Local Demands or National Interests?"]

[Excerpts] If intercity rivalry exceeds the limits of a principled or constructive approach, it will defeat the purpose and hamper the progress of these cities and there will be a concomitant negative fallout in the social and cultural spheres. [passage omitted]

It would have been more appropriate if the Islamic Majles had unofficially conveyed the Majles' viewpoint to the residents of Qazvin before voting on the bill regarding the upgrading of Qazvin to a province, especially as some actions by the Majles deputies generated the impression that this bill would receive a favorable vote from them.

From another vantage point the people have the right to convey their collective opinions regarding their own city as they consider themselves involved in these processes. But it is certain that the people who want their city to be upgraded and its conditions ameliorated would never consent to dealing a blow to anything they have.

Since such requests may be received from other parts of the country, in addition to vigilance by the people, the performance of the Law Enforcement Forces plays a decisive role in preventing conditions that would give opportunists free rein. The Law Enforcement Forces are

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obliged to assist city dwellers to present their demands within the framework of the law and thus increase their own efficiency. [passage omitted]

If the Islamic Majles looked harder at the local activities of the representatives of various cities it would find instances in which, instead of planning and pursuing a principled course, some measures are being taken that are deceptive and have generated a wave of negative sentiments in the cities nearby. In this manner we can realize that hasty decisions are not the logical solutions; these are the explanation and clarification of national interests for the noble people of Qazvin—no matter why they believe that an upgrade to the level of a province ensures and expedites the progress of a province. This can make them comprehend the country's larger issues.

By expediting the implementation of council laws, which will include the greater participation of the people in executive affairs, the way will be paved for developing perceptions in the various cities in the country.

Publication Sees 'Brighter' Economic Future

LD1208192394 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 12 Aug 94

[Text] London, Aug. 12, IRNA—Iran's government finances are seen emerging in good shape after rescheduling its debt profile and the recent revival of the oil market that presents an unscheduled bonanza.

The success is attributed to winning concessions in the transfer of more than dlrs [dollars] 8 billion worth of short-term debts to mostly medium terms after years of relunctance by Western countries and without having to go to the IMF and face its onerous conditions.

Through putting its finances in order, Middle East Economic Digest (MEED) believes that Iran can start looking ahead and planning for the first time in two years, but warns that there are still other serious problems to be still resolved.

The good news, it said, presented a brighter picture for Iran, with industrial investment of 1989-92 now paying off in terms of higher production and agricultural output on the increase, cutting dlrs 3 bn off annual import requirements.

Efforts to boost non-oil exports were also seen having significant results bringing in nearly dlrs 3 bn in 1993 to reduce the dependency on oil for hard currency.

Prospects were that the weakness in the rial may recover most of its recent plunge caused by hard currency restrictions that are expected to be relaxed somewhat in the autumn.

With the recovery in oil prices, Iran's external financial position could further improve up to an extra dlrs 4 bn in revenue than had been anticipated in this year's cautious budget.

MEED pointed out that the expectations placed on President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani at the start of his economic program in 1989 had been but still thought that privatization had been too slow.

Some success was seen appearing in the gradual elimination of state subsidies in the next five year plan being debated by Majles in a revised version after being postponed for one year.

Need To Learn From First Plan Emphasized

NC1308094394 Tehran HAMSHAHRI in Persian 8 Aug 94 pp 1, 2

[Editorial: "The Government, Majles, and the Second Plan"]

[Text] Debates on the bill on the Second Five-Year Plan for Economic, Social, and Cultural Development is to begin in the Majles open session today. These debates are starting just when basic questions on the general issues of planning and programming remain unanswered. At any rate, it is a good sign that discussions that will lead to a final decision on this vital economic priority are to be held. This commentary too will try to refer to some aspects of this issue, even if it seems repetitive.

1. First of all, the experience of the First Plan, which can be considered the sole basis on which the Second Plan can be based, showed that the country regards planning from the perspective of "quantity" rather than "development." Dealing with bottlenecks in the country's production and services sectors and removing economic bottlenecks were the highest objectives of the First Plan, and dozens of billions of dollars and hundreds of millions of rials were spent for development, production, and infrastructural projects.

But, frankly, "development" should be pursued within the framework of achieving a "well-proportioned" growth in all the economic, social, cultural, and political fields. In short, economic growth should be pursued within the framework of long-term economic and social objectives—something that is the "strategy" of each system. And apparently when defining this strategy in the Second Plan, specific objectives should be granted priority.

2. Another experience that has been gained from the First Plan is that instead of granting the government and the executive branch the role of acting as the "policy-maker" and guide for economic, development, and cultural activities, the government was treated as an "implementer" of programs and of objectives that were based on the oil income that acted as the backbone of the First Plan. Of course, this was because of the major role played by oil income in ensuring the credits needed for the First Plan. But actually the government became involved in meeting marginal objectives. Thus, the vital issue of "policy-making" that comprised one of the major duties of the government became of secondary

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importance and almost everything was overshadowed by the management force of several thousand industrial and production units and development, education, and other projects. Actually, in its confrontation with the public sector, the government can and should seek the assistance of monetary and financial instruments and implement its policy-making role in such a way that all the national economic resources—and not merely the public sector—will act to fulfill the objectives of the Plan. In the public sector too, in addition to "playing" its active and of course "economic" role in financing, the government has to compile policies concerning its financial resources that stem from oil incomes.

3. The other problem of the First Plan was that most of its objectives were fulfilled inconsistently and without pursuing what the Plan envisaged. Thus, even though at the end of the Plan many of the quantitative objectives had been achieved, the growth that had been achieved was not so "well-proportioned" since the Plan succeeded in fulfilling objectives in one field and failed to do so in another. The emergence of problems such as foreign debts and the unbalanced growth of industry too stemmed from the failure to implement what the Plan envisaged.

The failure to carefully fulfill the objectives envisaged by the Plan within a desirable time-frame too inevitably led to a waste of national resources. For example, if the plan was to achieve partial progress in the economic field in the first year and to go on to achieve a higher rate of progress by the end of the Plan, all this was upset, and despite the general fulfillment of objectives, the wasting of resources in some of the years led to stagnation and the absence of credits in other years. This too is a point that should be considered by the planners.

Ports, Shipping Organization Reports on Activities

LD1408103494 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 14 Aug 94

[Text] We draw your attention to a report on the activities of the Ports and Shipping Organization in the unloading of goods in country's ports.

[Unidentified correspondent] In the past year [beginning 21 March 1993] the Ports and Shipping Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran saved $130 million by implementing a bilateral agreement between itself and foreign ship-owners. It also loaded and unloaded 27.5 million tonnes of goods in the country's ports and reduced the marine industry's transport costs. In the current year 85 billion rials have been allocated as a development budget to equip and complete the country's ports.

Referring to the designation of Bandar Abbas as a transit port for Central Asian countries and the creation of a protected area in Anzali port for nonoil exports, the managing director of our Port and Shipping Organization said: Every year about 2.5 million tonnes of goods will be imported and exported through the country's northern and southern ports.

Finally, referring to a project to expand Anzali and Now-Shahr ports and set up multipurpose ports in Fereydun-Kenar, Amirabad, and Astara, the managing director of the Port and Shipping Organization announced that 42,000 tonnes of goods have been exported from Anzali, an increase of 400 percent. He said ships which transfer their goods to Now-Shahr port will enjoy a 10 percent discount on all port expenses.

Statistics for Non-Oil Exports, Imports Reported

Exports Increase

LD1308100694 Tehran IRNA in English 0935 GMT 13 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 13, IRNA—Some 2,233,000 tons of non-oil goods worth rls. [rials] 2,169 billion (dlrs. [dollars] 1,239 million) were exported during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (began March 21, 1994).

According to the public relations office of the customs department the figures show an increase of 2.2 percents in weight and 13 percent in value compared to the same period last year.

Hand-woven wool and silk carpet, copper, pistachio, steel, hide, chemical substances, garments, cattle and foodstuff were the major export items over the said period.

Some 9,000 tons of handwoven carpet worth rls. 849 billion were exported over the period, 39 percent of the total exports, showing an increase of 14 percent in weight and 34 percent in value over the period.

Pistachio and dried fruits stood in the second place in the list of non-oil exports with a weight of 31,000 tons and value of rls. 191 billion, up by 5 percent in weight and 2.5 percent in value compared to figures for the preceding year.

Export of steel amounted to 423,000 tons worth of rls. 163 billion, chemicals 615,000 tons worth of rls. 127 billion, copper 15,000 tons worth rls. 45 billion, hide and various kinds of pickled hide 7,000 tons worth rls. 59 billion, caviar 56 tons worth rls. 15 billion, cattle 10,000 tons worth rls. 42 billion, foodstuff 38,000 tons worth rls. 27 billion, and garments 3,000 tons worth rls. 29 billion.

Customs department of Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni, handling 1,073,000 tons of goods, Bandar Abbas 609,000 tons, Tabriz 83,000 tons and Bushehr 67,000 tons were the most active departments with regard to the weight of goods exported.

Meanwhile, customs department of west of Tehran with rls. 897 billion, Bandar-e 'Abbas with rls. 258 billion, Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni with rls. 247 billion and

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south of Tehran with rls. 160 billion stood one to fourth with regard to the value of the goods exported.

4.4 Million Tons Imported

LD1608114594 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 16 Aug 94

[Text] Tehran, Aug 16, IRNA—Some 4.4 million tons of non-oil goods were imported during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (began March 21, 1994). Out of the figure a total of 93 percent were shipped into the country while the remaining seven percent imported through land borders.

Of the total import, 2.3 million tons were essential goods and 2.1 million non-essential, announced the public relations office of the Roads and Transportation Ministry.

Some 98 percent of the goods were unloaded at the country's ports and only two percent at land borders.

Meanwhile, 4.1 million tons of the goods imported, including 2 million tons of essential goods and 2.1 million tons of non-essential, were reloaded for local consumption of which 3.2 million tons were carried by trucks (78 percent) and 923,000 tons by railway (22 percent).

Over the said period, 1,762,000 tons of oil products were unloaded at various ports in the country but the figure was not included in the total imports.

Among the terminals for imports, Bandar Imam Khomeyni ranked first with a share of one million tons of imports (48 percent) and reloading of 983,000 tons (48.8 percent).

Bandar Abbas ranked second with a share of 37.1 percent of imports and 38.4 percent of reloading.

The joint share of Bandar Imam Khomeyni and Bandar Abbas in the for imports and reloading in proportion with the total land borders in the said period was 82.1 percent of imports and 80.9 percent of reloading.

Pakistan

Leghari Reiterates Policy on Kashmir, F-16's

BK1708111594 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 17 Aug 94 p 12

[Text] Sargodha, Aug 16 (APP/PPI):—Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, reiterating Tuesday [16 August] full support to the Kashmiris despite Indian threats, expressed the confidence that Pakistan can meet any threat.

Commenting on the threats by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao of annexing Kashmir, President Leghari said "we support the Kashmir cause so that they have a right to decide which side to join. We do not have aims and objectives of annexing new territories."

Talking to newsmen here after witnessing the Pakistan Air Force exercise "Saffron Bandit 94," he said "we want justice to be done to the people of Kashmir and we will continue to support them whether India threatens or not, as we have a principled stand."

Referring to the threat given by the Indian Prime Minister, President Leghari said, "we feel India is violating international law, violating its own commitment and commitment of the international community by not implementing United Nations resolutions on Kashmir. The resolutions were accepted by the former Indian governments and international community, which called upon India and Pakistan to have a referendum in the whole of Kashmir so that the people of Kashmir can decide whether they wish to join India or Pakistan. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Kashmir is an unfinished item of the Partition agenda, said Leghari, adding "India has illegally sought to include Indian-held Kashmir within the Indian union and made some constitutional changes to that effect. Nobody accepts that Pakistan does not accept it. International community does not accept it, as there are very clear United Nations resolutions in this regard."

The President referring to the indigenous freedom struggle said, "Pakistan is helping the cause of freedom in Kashmir by extending diplomatic, political and moral support to the people of Kashmir."

Leghari said, "whole people cannot rise against an oppressor merely on the prodding of another country. There is no other instance in the world where anything like that has happened. Even a super power like United States could not egg on other nations to rise against their oppressors. So the question of Pakistan manoeuvring all this is illogical. It is an indigenous moverment," he added. Denying Indian allegations of Pakistan's involvement in the liberation struggle, he said, "the people of Kashmir have risen against dashed promises, gang rape; and cruelty of 600,000 plus troops. It is futile for India to pretend that was engineered by Pakistan."

Pakistan will shop elsewhere and acquire "high-tech" weapon system if it is not delivered F-16 aircraft by the United States, the President declared.

"We would very much like to make more purchases from those companies which have previously been supplying equipment to Pakistan. But if the US administration does not allow to do so, we will have to go elsewhere as there is a whole world to shop around," Leghari emphatically said.

He said we would still prefer to buy basic equipment from the US but it is up to Washington, its legislators and leaders to make a decision allowing us an access to their equipment and system."

Commenting on a statement of the US ambassador to India that the US government officials in Washington said that deal is still there and is not dead, he said "We

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would not like this deal to be dead and we want our aircraft. We like the Americans to find ways of delivering this aircraft to us, Pressler or no Pressler".

Leghari categorically stated, "we cannot accept any linkage between F-16 and our peaceful nuclear programme".

Appreciating the acumen and capabilities of the defence forces, he said, "I think our armed forces and men, the level, the material and training that they have acquired, the high sense of dedication, which I have observed here at Sargodha base and other installations of three services, have made me confident that Inshallah we can meet any threat". Moreover, he added, the government will continue to provide maximum effort and support to our defence requirements.

The President earlier witnessed various manoeuvres of PAF fighters.

However, no press briefing for a large scale PAF exercise for the specially invited media team was arranged.

Responding to a question that what steps were being taken to further beef up defence capability and explore other options, the President said "F-16 is not the only factor in our defence as we have a lot of other systems".

He said through the Americans had hurt Pakistan badly yet the PAP and other defence forces were doing whatever possible to keep the country's defences on high alert and to have a viable defence capability to meet any threat from India and elsewhere.

Official Clarifies Situation Involving Afghan Planes

BK1808043394 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] There is no restriction on the Afghan airlines company, Ariana, using Pakistan's airspace. However, clarifying the situation, a Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad that Afghanistan's military and civilian planes both repeatedly violated air traffic control and safety requirements, causing security risks for Pakistan. The spokesman recalled that an Afghan plane had sought permission to enter Pakistani airspace at around sunset on Friday while on its way to Delhi from Kabul. Since the plane had no permission to land, it was asked to go back. The pilot, however, reasoned that there was no night-time landing facility in Afghanistan and hence he could not fly back. The plane was, therefore, allowed to land in Peshawar, but it flew back to Afghanistan after three days, the spokesman added.

Editorial Reviews Visit by Turkmenistan's Niyazov

BK1608101094 Islamabad THE NATION in English 16 Aug 94 p 6

[Editorial: "Pipe dreams"]

[Text] President of Turkmenistan Saparmurat Niyazov's visit to Pakistan has ended with the signing of agreements for cooperation in the fields of science and technology, sports and tourism, and visas and counsellor arrangements. There is also an agreement in principle on the development of communications and infrastructure to link the two countries. While these agreements are not insignificant in themselves, they are beset with certain serious obstacles and problems and they do stand out in their modesty in glaring contrast to the kind of high hopes that were being reposed initially in the opportunities available in the newly independent Central Asian Republics. The fundamental problem in the potentially mutually beneficial trade and other relations between Pakistan and the Central Asian Republics is that overland access, the only feasible route for profitable trade is blocked because of the continuing civil war in Afghanistan. So while Turkmenistan to take the example under consideration here is rich in minerals oil and gas, and Pakistan's keenness to set up rail and road links with it has prompted the government to launch into the feasibility study of these projects out of its own resources without waiting for international funding, the vexed question of transporting two-way trade across war-torn Afghanistan will continue to render any such exercise futile unless and until there is an end to the Afghan civil war. That conflict also fuels the Central Asian Republics' reservations about closer ties with Pakistan because we are perceived as having supported Afghan Mujahideen groups who are considered fundamentalist by the Central Asians. They are apprehensive about the ethnic divide in Afghanistan spilling over its borders to affect their own internal political situation, given that there are indigenous Islamic movements in most of these countries. So while President Niyazov's remarks about the need for a peaceful solution in Afghanistan would strike a responsive chord in any thinking person's mind his position may also be motivated by the enlightened self-interest of preventing an 'Afghan' situation with his own borders.

President Niyazov's 'support' to Pakistan on the question of Kashmir was sufficiently guarded not to commit him to a position which may be taken amiss by Indian, with whom all the Central Asian Republics have old ties dating back to the Soviet era. The heightened expectations aroused at the time of Central Asia's independence have been considerably dampened also by the ground realities of the difficult process of transition to a capitalist economy which these countries are going through, and the incompatibilities of trade between economies producing similar products. These realities and the Afghan conflict have cast their shadow over the process of development of ties ever since. It is hoped that the Pakistan government will trim its objectives in this area realistically in the light of those realities now, rather than go off half-cocked in the face of the objective situation.

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Scientific Agreement With Turkmenistan Outlined

BK1808073394 Karachi DAWN in English 14 Aug 94 p 18

[Text] Islamabad, Aug 13—Turkmenistan and Pakistan on Saturday [13 August] entered into an agreement for establishing scientific and technical cooperation between the two countries.

Under the agreement the two countries will render each other mutual assistance for the exchange of scientific, technical and economic experience by means of:

- making available the services of experts and other personnel in order to render advice and assistance in all matters related to science and technology
- granting of scholarships for imparting training;
- exchange of scientific delegations for short visits to get acquainted with the planning and organization of science and technology and to participate in congresses, symposia and other scientific meetings;
- rendering of technical assistance and exchange of scientific and technological information;
- participating and rendering assistance for establishing and equipping research centres and laboratories;
- conduct of joint Research and Development projects and technological development programmes;
- transfer of technology on mutually agreed terms and conditions;

Representatives of the two sides will meet alternately in the two capitals to finalise the programmes of scientific and technical cooperation and to review the ongoing cooperative activities and progress of implementation for the period covered by each specific protocol.

The parties may provide necessary facilities for the scientific personnel for the fulfillment of the tasks to be carried out under this agreement on the territory of the receiving party.

Each party undertook that the special knowledge acquired in the course of the implementation of this agreement shall not be disclosed to a third party without the prior consent of the other party.

The inventions resulting from the joint activities of scientific research and technological development carried out by the teams of specialists of the two countries under this agreement shall be deemed joint property of the two countries and shall be patented by both governments according to the laws, rules and regulations in force in each country. Each contracting party shall exempt from its income tax and other taxes the salaries of the nationals of the other party who perform their missions in its territory in pursuance of the agreement and whose salaries are paid by the other party. The customs facilities shall be governed by the customs concessions to be extended a reciprocal basis.

Prime Minister Bhutto Returns From Qatar Visit

BK1708162294 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto returned to Islamabad a short while ago after a three-day visit to Qatar.

Sri Lanka

Opposition Reportedly Wins 15 of 18 Districts

BK1708122094 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Aug 94

[Text] The People's Alliance [PA] is heading for victory in yesterday's parliamentary elections and has been victorious in 15 of the 18 electoral districts in which the results have been declared.

The United National Party [UNP] has secured [words indistinct] of the districts. The PA has won the most number of seats in Hambantota, Matara, Puttalam, Polonnaruwa, Monaragalla, Galle, Ratnapura, Gampaha, Kalutara, Anuradhapura, Matale, Kurunagale, and Colombo. The UNP has won the largest number of seats in Digamadulla, Badulla, Kandy, Nuwara Eliya and Kegalle. The PA has four members in Hambantota District, while the UNP has two members. In Matara, the PA has five members while the UNP has three members. Four members of the PA have been elected in the Puttalam District while three UNP members have secured seats. In the Polonnaruwa District, the PA has three and the UNP two members. In the Monaragalla District, the PA has three and the UNP two. Six members have been elected from the PA in the Galle and Ratnapura Districts, while four members each have been elected from the UNP to the two districts. The PA won 11 seats and the UNP seven seats in the Gampaha District, while the PA has six and the UNP four seats in the Kalutara District. In the Anuradhapura District, the PA has five and the UNP three seats. The PA has three seats in the Matale District, while the UNP has two seats. The PA has 11 elected members in the Colombo District while the UNP has nine members. The members elected to the Kurunagale District from the PA number eight, while seven members have been elected from the UNP. Three UNP members were elected to the Digamadulla District, while the PA has one member. Five members each have been elected from the Badulla, Nuwara Eliya, and Kegalle electoral districts from the UNP, while three have been elected from the PA from the Badulla District, two from the Nuwara Eliya District and four from the Kegalle District. One independent member has also won in the Kegalle District. There are seven elected members from the UNP in the Kandy District, while the PA has five members in Kandy. Two members of the Muslim Congress have also been elected to the Digamadulla District, while one member has been elected to the Hambantota District from the Sri Lanka Progressive Front.

Results are yet to be declared in the four electoral districts in Jaffna, Vavuniya, Batticaloa, and Trincomalee. The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation will announce the results as soon they are obtained. The counting of preference votes is now in progress. The results will be announced as soon as they are released.

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Opposition Reportedly To Form Minority Government

BK1808035894 Hong Kong AFP in English 0345 GMT 18 Aug 94

[Text] COLOMBO, Aug 18 (AFP)—The opposition People's Alliance (PA), which became the strongest party in Tuesday's [16 August] elections, will form a minority government, outgoing premier Ranil Wickremesinghe told AFP.

The PA won 105 seats, eight short of the minimum of 113 for a simple majority in the 225-member legislative council, but with two regional allies the party could form the new government.

Wickremesinghe said he would hand over power to PA campaign leader Chandrika Kumaratunga as soon as President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga issued a gazette notification Thursday asking the PA to form a government.

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